

THE DEBATES 2020

*A theatrical adaptation of the
2020 Democratic Presidential Primary Debates*

Created by

theater 
IN ASYLUM

“Deliberation and debate is the way you stir the soul of our democracy.”

- Jesse Jackson¹

“Voting will not save us from harm, but silence will surely damn us all.”

- Stacey Abrams²

¹ @RevJJackson. “Deliberation & debate is the way you stir the soul of our democracy. Agree? Come to [#RPCCONV2015! #MondayMotivation](https://twitter.com/RevJJackson/status/610517758506311680).” *Twitter*, 15 Jun. 2015, 2:42 P.M., <https://twitter.com/RevJJackson/status/610517758506311680>. 13 Jun. 2020.

² Abrams, Stacey. “Stacey Abrams: I Know Voting Feels Inadequate Right Now.” *The New York Times*. 4 Jun. 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/opinion/stacey-abrams-voting-floyd-protests.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

OUR INTENTIONS

Created by Theater in Asylum (TIA), The Debates is a process of adapting U.S. presidential election debates into theatrical performances. After watching a debate, we gather to analyze it, and create an original performance based on it. Throughout the process, participants speak lines from the debate, imitate candidates' gestures, invent scenes that provide context or history, and analyze the candidates the way an actor would a character in a play. We believe that this is a way to “try on” the candidates, demystifying them and emboldening the voter. Behind the scenes, every word and assertion (whether from the debate transcript or generated by the participants) is rigorously fact checked by a team of dramaturgs. All sources are noted in our publicly available script. Ultimately, we hope the material on stage, and the voting materials offstage, will empower audiences to engage with the democratic process with knowledge and confidence.

OUR PROCESS

1. **Watch Party:** We watch the debates live on television. These parties can be at a bar, a home, or a community space.
2. **Political Analysis Meetings:** We go through the transcript and separate fact from fiction, highlighting moments that deserve more attention. Facilitators lead participants in research and discussion to better understand what occurred during the debate. By the end of these meetings, the transcript is parsed into what is most potent for our show (either politically or theatrically) and what is discardable (repetitive or unsubstantiated).
3. **Scripting Meetings:** We devise scenes or lift dialogue from the transcripts and accompanying research. Here we make the original script.
4. **Rehearsals:** We stage and rehearse the original script. Directors and choreographers lead actors and designers to bring the script to life on stage.
5. **Performance:** We present the team's work to the community.
6. **Follow Through:** At all our events, voter registration and materials are available. After the performance, we work to remind all participants and the audience to vote.

OUR DISCLAIMER

All expenditures for The Debates are paid for by Theater in Asylum. No actions, script lines, voting guide, or events are authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Theater in Asylum does not endorse any candidate in this race. We simply want more people, people like you, to engage and participate. No copyright infringement, defamation, libel, or slander is intended. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at info@theaterinasyllum.com. Please don't sue us!

OUR TEAM

The process was led by TIA's Artistic Directors Paul Bedard and Katie Palmer.
Fact checking and sourcing by TIA's Lead Dramaturg Samantha Keogh.
Scripting and events work by TIA's Community Engagement Manager Hilarie Spangler.
Production and facilitation help by TIA's Managing Director Kathryn Appleton.
Original songs composed by Ali Dineen.

Additional scripting, research, brainstorming, and creative energy invested by:

Christian Avila	Gethsemane	Tracy McDowell
Ariella Axelbank	Herron-Coward	Julia Nickerson
Theresa Burns	Cody Hom	Brandon Otis
Matt Clemons	Colleen Hughes	Zac Porter
Cristopher DeSantis	Karen Irwin	Manuela Sosa
Nadia Diamond	Addison Jenkins	Rosie Sowa
Lawrence Dreyfuss	Oscar Klausner	Dan Stearns
Jacey Fears	Julia Levine	Zach Stephens
Amanda Ghosh	Diana Levy	Ellie Swartz
Kara Hankard	Richard Lowenburg	Jordan Teicher
	Allie Marotta	Alison Walte

A NOTE ON PRODUCTION

Please enjoy this script. Peruse our research and let us know what you think. If you are interested in mounting your own production of *The Debates 2020* or bringing ours to you, please just let us know! All inquiries, comments, and concerns may be sent to Kathryn Appleton at kathryn@theaterinasyllum.com.

The Debates 2020 was performed online on Sunday, June 21, 2020 by Christian Avila, Paul Bedard, Danny Bradley, Christopher DeSantis, Nadia Diamond, Ali Dineen, Amanda Ghosh, Kara Hankard, Addison Jenkins, Marlee Miller, Brandon Otis, Katie Palmer, Zac Porter, Sully Ross. Videography in Name Song and Go Vote Song numbers by Megan Hessenthaler. Livestream production management by Dan Stearns.

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- To Maggie Dickinson, Rick Fudge, Colleen Hughes, Diana Levy, Emily Rose Prats, and Jacob Marx Rice for providing invaluable support along the way.

To our incredible donors who made our work possible. Thank you:

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Martha Ferguson
Karen Foster
Ines Garcia

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Kara Hankard
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And the 32 amazing people who chose to donate anonymously!

Thank you to the artists whose work inspires us and has influenced this piece: Peter Schumann and the Bread and Puppet Theater, Hallie Flanagan and the Federal Theatre Project, The San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Thank you to the political thinkers who inspired us during this piece: Stacey Abrams, Dr. Angela Y. Davis, Dr. Robin DiAngelo, Amy Goodman and the good people at Democracy Now, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Naomi Klein, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, President Barack Obama, Rebecca Solnit, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Dr. Cornel West, the good people at NPR's *Politics* and *Throughline* podcasts, as well as all the candidates who bravely sought to expand our national imagination.

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DISCLAIMER SONG

♪ BALLADEER ♪

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That's info@theaterinasyllum.com

And please don't sue us.
Please don't sue us.
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BALLADEER: Welcome! Welcome! Welcome to the greatest horse race ever seen! That's right folks, it's the 2020 race for the Democratic Nomination for President of the United States. We're going to take you back, way back in time, to the start of the race and all the way through to the present. We're going to give you the facts, in context, as well as the ups, the downs, the turnarounds, the inside outs, and the downright boggling twists and turns as approximately 1 million people seek the nomination. Now, we're going to give you a factual account of this race, but keep in mind. Facts have changed and we're presenting what was true at each point in the race, not necessarily what's true now. So let's begin. Here we go. It's the start of the 2020 race for the Democratic Nomination for President of the United States. For this we need to go all the way back to less than a year after the 2016 election.

HORSE RACE #1^{3/4}

[Over-the-top music. Think the music that plays right before a debate starts.]

ANNOUNCER: Welcome! Welcome! Welcome to the greatest horse race ever seen! Here we go! It's the start of the 2020 race for Democratic Nomination for President of the United States. [992] Yes, here we are. It's August 10, 2017 and we are 992⁵ days before the New York primary. The race is just about to start... And we're off! The first candidate has entered the race for the 2020 Democratic Nomination for President: former Maryland Congressman John Delaney.⁶

DELANEY: Focus on the future.⁷

ANNOUNCER: [903] It's November 7, and our second horse has left the gate. Neck and neck with John Delaney is now tech entrepreneur from California, Andrew Yang.⁸

YANG: Math! That's Make America Think Harder!⁹

ANNOUNCER: [848] Then here we are. Happy new year! It's January 1, 2018.

ANNOUNCER: [810] And already it's February 9 and the Winter Olympics are beginning in South Korea.¹⁰

ANNOUNCER: [804] It's Valentine's Day and we have some sad news here. There has been a shooting at Marjory-Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Seventeen people are confirmed dead as the United States has endured another horrifying school shooting at the hands of a teenage gunman armed with an AR-15 assault rifle.¹¹

³ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁴ No horses were exploited in the making of this theatrical race.

⁵ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁶ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁷ Quote: *John Delaney for President*. 2020 John Delaney. <https://www.johndelaney.com>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁹ Quote: Presidential campaign logos and slogans 2020, *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_campaign_logos_and_slogans_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_campaign_logos_and_slogans_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁰ The Olympic Movement. "PYEONGCHANG 2018." *olympic.org*. <https://www.olympic.org/pyeongchang-2018>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹¹ The following source contains violence: CBS/AP. "Suspect, Nikolas Cruz, in custody in Parkland school shooting in Florida." *CBS News*. 15 Feb. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/parkland-shooting-florida-school-marjory-stoneman-douglas-high-today-2018-02-14-live-updates/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

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[701] It's May 28 and reports are emerging that the United States is separating migrant children from their parents at the US/Mexican border.¹²

[686] Happy Summer, folks. It's June 12 and the President has signed a "comprehensive agreement" after his meeting in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jung Un.¹³

[612] It's August 25 and I regret to inform you of the passing of John McCain. He was a former Arizona senator, Vietnam War veteran, Republican presidential nominee, and frequent critic of the President.¹⁴

[579] It's September 27 and in front of a full senate committee hearing chamber and an audience of millions, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford is currently testifying. She has alleged that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually abused her while the two were in high school.¹⁵

ANNOUNCER: [570] But here are, one week later. On October 6, in a vote of 50 to 48, Brett Kavanaugh has been confirmed as a United States Supreme Court Justice.¹⁶

[549] It's October 27th and it is with a heavy heart that I inform you of a mass shooting that has taken place at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Eleven people have lost their lives.¹⁷

[539] It's November 6, Election Day! Today, over 100 women were elected to seats in the US House and Senate, the most women ever in a single cycle.¹⁸

¹² CBS News. "Tension grows as hundreds of children are separated from parents at the border." *CBS This Morning*. 29 May 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigrants-children-separated-from-families-trump-zero-tolerance/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹³ CBS News. "North Korea summit: Trump, Kim sign "comprehensive" document — live updates as they happened." *CBS News*. 12 Jun. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-news/trump-kim-jong-un-summit-north-korea-historic-meeting-singapore-today-2018-06-11-live-updates/>. 13 Jun 2020.

¹⁴ CBS News. "John McCain, military hero and Senate 'maverick,' has died at 81." *CBS News*. 25 Aug. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/john-mccain-dead-81-arizona-maverick-senator-death-after-stopped-brain-cancer-treatment-live-updates/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵ Tillett, Emily, Kathryn Watson, and Grace Segers. "Christine Blasey Ford concludes testimony, '100 percent' sure Kavanaugh assaulted her." *CBS News*. 27 Sep. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-news/brett-kavanaugh-hearing-confirmation-today-christine-blasey-ford-sexual-assault-allegations-live/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶ Segers, Greg, Kathryn Watson, John Nolen, and Bor Erickson. "Kavanaugh sworn in as Supreme Court justice." *CBS News*. 6 Oct. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-news/brett-kavanaugh-vote-live-stream-senate-confirmation-today-2018-10-06/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷ The following source contains violence: Carissimo, Justin. "11 dead in shooting at Pittsburgh synagogue." *CBS News*. 27 Oct. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pittsburgh-shooting-today-tree-of-life-synagogue-squirrel-hill-pennsylvania-2018-10-27-live-updates/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁸ Salam, Maya. "A Record 117 Women Won Office, Reshaping America's Leadership." *The New York Times*. 7 Nov. 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/07/us/elections/women-elected-midterm-elections.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

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Andrew Yang and John DeLaney are still at it on the track.

[533] It's November 12 and a THIRD, I repeat, a THIRD, candidate has entered the race for the democratic presidential nomination - a retired Army Major and currently a West Virginia state senator, Richard Ojeda.¹⁹

[518] It's November 27, and California's Camp Fire continues to rage out of control. 88 people have lost their lives.²⁰

ANNOUNCER: [514] It's December 1 and I regret to inform you that former President George H.W. Bush has passed away today, at the age of 94.²¹

[493] It's December 22, and the United States government has partially shut down, with an impasse over funding for the president's border wall continuing as we speak.²²

[484] All right, folks. Today, on New Year's Eve and just hours before we ring in 2019, a fourth candidate is entering the race. Please give it up for our newest competitor, Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren.^{23,24}

WARREN: What we need is big, structural change!²⁵

[476] It's January 8 and the President has made a speech from the Oval Office, asserting that...

PRESIDENT [*Played by some sort of object*]: There is a growing humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border. Every day, customs and border patrol agents encounter thousands of illegal immigrants trying to enter our country. We are out of space to hold them and we have no way to promptly return them back home to their country.²⁶

¹⁹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁰ Sullivan, Emily and Richard Gonzalez. "88 Dead, 158 Still Unaccounted For After Camp Fire Contained." *NPR*. 27 Nov. 2018. <https://www.npr.org/2018/11/27/671074763/88-dead-203-still-unaccounted-for-after-camp-fire-contained>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²¹ CBS News. "George H.W. Bush, 41st president, dies at 94." *CBS News*. 1 Dec. 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/george-h-w-bush-dead-94-years-old-41st-president-united-states-obituary-cause-of-death-2018-12-01/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²² Hirschfeld Davis, Julie and Emily Cochrane. "Government Shuts Down as Talks Fail to Break Impasse." *The New York Times*. 21 Dec. 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/21/us/politics/trump-shutdown-border-wall.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁴ Warren, Elizabeth. "Elizabeth Warren Launches Exploratory Committee for President." *Youtube*. 31 Dec. 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbH0RU4GcVo&feature=youtu.be>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁵ Quote: Warren, Elizabeth. "Big, structural change: We've done it before, and we can do it again." *Medium*. 23 May 2019. <https://medium.com/@teamwarren/big-structural-change-weve-done-it-before-and-we-can-do-it-again-c9a042ed8b59>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁶ Quote: Trump, Donald. "Read: President Trump's Oval Office address on immigration." *CNN politics*. 8 Jan. 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/08/politics/read-trump-immigration-oval-office-speech-transcript/index.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [473] Eleven days into the new year and the race is heating up! Give it up for Hawaii Representative Tulsi Gabbard.²⁷

GABBARD: I will be your voice.²⁸

ANNOUNCER: [472] And here comes San Antonio mayor Julian Castro.²⁹

CASTRO: Working together, I believe we can build a new promise for ourselves and for our future.³⁰

ANNOUNCER: [469] Say hello to New York Senator K-er-sten Gillibrand!³¹

GILLIBRAND: I'm going to run for president of the United States because as a young mom I am going to fight for other people's kids as hard as I would fight for my own³²

ANNOUNCER: [463] And here's California senator Kamala Harris.³³

HARRIS: Kamala Harris, for the people!³⁴

ANNOUNCER: [461] Please welcome the youngest stallion of the race - mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg.³⁵

BUTTIGIEG: It's time for a new generation of American leadership.³⁶

ANNOUNCER: [459] You said it. Uh oh folks, we have our first drop-out of this season. Say goodbye to Richard Ojeda. We barely new ye'.³⁷

²⁷ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁸ Quote: Gabbard, Tulsi. "By the people, for the people | Tulsi Gabbard." *Youtube*. 24 Nov. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogN1sDBzQCo>. 13 Jun. 2020.

²⁹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁰ Quote: Julián for the Future. "Julián Castro for President." *Julián Castro*. <https://www.julianforthefuture.com>. 13 Jun. 2020.

³¹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

³² Quote: Kirsten Gillibrand. Block, Valerie. "Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand: 'I'm going to run' for president." *CNBC*. 15 Jan. 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/15/kirsten-gillibrand-i-am-going-to-run-for-president-in-2020.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

³³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁴ Quote: Friends of Kamala Harris. "Tough. Principled. Fearless." *Kamala*. <https://kamalaharris.org>. 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁵ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁶ Quote: @PeteButtigieg. "It's time for a new generation of American leadership. Tonight I'll share my vision for how we'll win the era. I hope you'll tune in to the #DemDebate at 9 pm ET." *Twitter*. 27 Jun. 2019. 8:18 p.m. <https://twitter.com/PeteButtigieg/status/1144399753754611712>. 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁷ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [455] But entering the race, here comes self-help guru Marianne Williamson.³⁸

WILLIAMSON: We need a moral and spiritual awakening in the country.³⁹

ANNOUNCER: [452] Our tenth competitor is New Jersey Senator Cory Booker.⁴⁰

BOOKER: Together we will channel our common pain, *back* into our common purpose.⁴¹

ANNOUNCER: [446] It's February 7th, 2019 and NY Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has just released a blueprint for a Green New Deal.⁴²

[Sudden angel choir music]

ANNOUNCER: [443] Thank you very much, back to the race. Please welcome our eleventh competitor, Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar.⁴³

KLOBUCHAR: Amy Klobuchar, leading from the heartland.⁴⁴

ANNOUNCER: [438] It's February 15th, citing an "invasion of drugs, gangs, and people," The President has declared a National Emergency to free up funding for a wall on the US/Mexican border.⁴⁵

ANNOUNCER: [434] And here we've got a *yuge* announcement. Joining the race is Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.⁴⁶

³⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

³⁹ Quote: Marianne Williamson. Stracqualursi, Veronica. "Author seeking Dem presidential nod calls for 'moral and spiritual awakening' in US." *CNN politics*. 31 Jan. 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/31/politics/marianne-williamson-2020-presidential-campaign-cnntv/index.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴¹ Quote: Booker, Cory. "Cory Booker: We Will Rise." *Youtube*. 1 Feb. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx5m6DDFupg>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴² Meyer, Robinson. "The Millennial Era of Climate Politics Has Arrived." *The Atlantic*. 7 Feb. 2019. https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/aocgreen-new-deal-new-era-millennial-climate-politics/582295/?utm_source=feed. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴ Quote: amyklobuchar.com. This slogan has since been taken down as the website was updated for her senate campaign. This is a reference to that original slogan: Pizzigati, Sam. "We Asked the 2020 Contenders How They Plan to Tackle Inequality." *The Nation*. 19 Nov. 2019. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/inequality-candidates-2020-sanders/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵ Baker, Pete. "Trump Declares a National Emergency, and Provokes a Constitutional Clash." *The New York Times*. 15 Feb. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/15/us/politics/national-emergency-trump.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

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SANDERS: What we need is a political revolution.⁴⁷

ANNOUNCER: [424] March 1 please welcome Washington Governor Jay Inslee.⁴⁸

INSLEE: "I'm Jay Inslee and I'm running for president because I am the only candidate who will make defeating climate change our nation's number one priority."⁴⁹

ANNOUNCER: [421] My gosh there's more. Former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.⁵⁰

ANNOUNCER: [412] Miramar Florida mayor Wayne Messam.⁵¹

ANNOUNCER: [411] Former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke.⁵²

O'ROURKE: I'm just born to do this.⁵³

ANNOUNCER: [403] I'm sure you are. We have 17 candidates now racing for the nomination. It's March 22 and we have news that Special Counsel Robert Mueller has completed his report on the Russia investigation. He has concluded that there was no collusion with Russia, but is leaving the door open on an obstruction of justice case.⁵⁴

[392] Uh oh but here we go again. April 2, say hello to... Former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel!⁵⁵

ANNOUNCER: [390] Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan!⁵⁶

ANNOUNCER: [386] California Congressman Eric Swalwell!⁵⁷

⁴⁷ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Croucher, Shane. "Bernie Sanders Calls for 'Political Revolution' in America, Lays Out His Democratic Socialist Vision: 'This Is Not Utopian'." *Newsweek*. 19 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.newsweek.com/bernie-sanders-2020-political-revolution-socialism-utopian-1444739>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹ Quote: Jay Inslee. Block, Valerie. "Washington Gov. Jay Inslee enters 2020 presidential race, to focus on climate change." CNBC. 1 Mar. 2019.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/01/washington-gov-jay-inslee-enters-2020-presidential-race-with-focus-on-climate-change.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁰ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Quote: Beto O'Rourke. Flegenheimer, Matt and Jonathan Martin. "Beto O'Rourke Enters the 2020 Presidential Campaign." *The New York Times*. 14 Mar. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/14/us/politics/beto-o-rourke-president.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴ Mazzetti, Mark and Katie Benner. "Mueller Finds No Trump-Russia Conspiracy, but Stops Short of Exonerating President on Obstruction." *The New York Times*. 24 Mar. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/24/us/politics/mueller-report-summary.html>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

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ANNOUNCER: [372] Massachusetts Congressman Seth Moulton!⁵⁸

ANNOUNCER: [369] And here's a formidable horse, it's April 25 and entering the race is former Vice President Joe Biden!⁵⁹

BIDEN: Our best days still lie ahead.⁶⁰

ANNOUNCER: [362] Let's hope so. But wait, there's more! Say hello to Colorado Senator Michael Bennet.⁶¹

ANNOUNCER: [350] Montana Governor Steve Bullock.⁶²

ANNOUNCER: [348] And... what?! No. Oy vey!
Ladies, gentlemen, and those above and beyond, you're not going to believe this.
The 25th candidate to enter the race is... New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.⁶³

DE BLASIO: Working People First!⁶⁴

ANNOUNCER: [310] It's June 23, 2019 and here we have former Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Sestak.⁶⁵

ANNOUNCER: [307] Would you look at this. Here we are folks! We made it! Ah! It's June 26 and with 307 days to the NY Primary,⁶⁶ it's time for the first Democratic Debate!⁶⁷ Here we go! Take it away!

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Quote: Biden for President. "Joe's Vision for America." Biden President. <https://joebiden.com/joes-vision/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Quote: Bill de Blasio. Mays, Jeffrey C and William Neuman. "Mayor Bill de Blasio Enters 2020 Race for President." *The New York Times*. 16 May 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/16/nyregion/bill-de-blasio-president.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁷ Democratic Presidential Debate on June 26, 2019 in Miami, hosted by NBC News, MSNBC and Telemundo.

Video: NBC News. "Democratic Presidential Debate - June 26 (Full) | NBC News." *Youtube*. 26 Jun 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ6MrDO0kgY>. 13 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "Full Transcript: Democratic Presidential Debates, Night 1." *The New York Times*. 26 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/us/politics/democratic-debate-transcript.html>. 13 Jun. 2019.

OPENING: HARRIS / BIDEN⁶⁸

MODERATOR: Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the first Democratic debate to the 2020 race for president. It's our first chance to see these candidates go head to head on stage together. Voters are trying to nail down where the candidates stand on the issues, what sets them apart, and which of these presidential hopefuls has what it takes. We're going to talk about the tensions with Iran, climate change, and of course, we'll talk about the economy, those kitchen table issues so many Americans face every day.⁶⁹ But let's be honest. With 20 candidates debating across two nights, all anyone's really going to take away from this debate is a moment that happens on night two. Let's jump right to it.⁷⁰

HARRIS: *[starting very abruptly, as if the debate's been going a while]* As the only black person on this stage, I would like to speak on the issue of race.⁷¹

MODERATOR: Senator Harris...⁷²

HARRIS: And so what I will say...⁷³

MODERATOR: If I could preface this, we will give you 30 seconds, because we're going to come back to you on this again in just a moment. But go for 30 seconds.⁷⁴

HARRIS: OK. So on the issue of race, I couldn't agree more that this is an issue that is still not being talked about truthfully and honestly. I -- there is not a black man I know, be he a relative, a friend or a coworker, who has not been the subject of some form of profiling or discrimination.

Growing up, my sister and I had to deal with the neighbor who told us her parents couldn't play with us because she -- because we were black. And I will say also that -- that, in this campaign, we have also heard -- and I'm going to now direct this at Vice President Biden, I do not believe you are a racist, and I agree with you when you commit yourself to the importance of finding common ground.

⁶⁸ Unless otherwise noted the text for the following scene comes from the debate on June 27, 2019.

Transcript: The Fix Staff. "Transcript: Night 2 of the first Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 28 Jun. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/28/transcript-night-first-democratic-debate/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁹ Line adapted from debate held on June 26, 2019. Internal sentence cuts have been made. NBC News. "Democratic Presidential Debate - June 26 (Full) | NBC News." *Youtube*. 26 Jun 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ6MrDO0kgY>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁷⁰ Line written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁷¹ Quote: Kamala Harris. The Fix Staff. "Transcript: Night 2 of the first Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 28 Jun. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/28/transcript-night-first-democratic-debate/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

⁷² Quote: Rachel Maddow. *Ibid*.

⁷³ Quote: Kamala Harris. *Ibid*.

⁷⁴ Quote: Rachel Maddow. *Ibid*.

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But I also believe, and it's personal -- and I was actually very -- it was hurtful to hear you talk about the reputations of two United States senators who built their reputations and career on the segregation of race in this country. And it was not only that, but you also worked with them to oppose bussing.

And, you know, there was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bussed to school every day. And that little girl was me.

So I will tell you that, on this subject, it cannot be an intellectual debate among Democrats. We have to take it seriously. We have to act swiftly. As attorney general of California, I was very proud to put in place a requirement that all my special agents would wear body cameras and keep those cameras on.⁷⁵

MODERATOR: Senator Harris, thank you. Vice President Biden, you have been invoked. We're going to give you a chance to respond. Vice President Biden?⁷⁶

BIDEN: It's a mischaracterization of my position across the board. I did not praise racists. That is not true, number one. Number two, if we want to have this campaign litigated on who supports civil rights and whether I did or not, I'm happy to do that.

I was a public defender. I didn't become a prosecutor. I came out and I left a good law firm to become a public defender, when, in fact⁷⁷, my city was in flames because of the assassination of Dr. King, number one.

Number two, as the U.S. -- excuse me, as the vice president of the United States, I worked with a man who, in fact, we worked very hard to see to it we dealt with these issues in a major, major way.

The fact is that, in terms of bussing, the bussing, I never -- you would have been able to go to school the same exact way because it was a local decision made by your city council. That's fine. That's one of the things I argued for, that we should not be -- we should be breaking down these lines.

But so the bottom line here is, look, everything I have done in my career, I ran because of civil rights, I continue to think we have to make fundamental changes in civil rights, and those civil rights, by the way, include not just only African-Americans, but the LGBT community.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Quote: Kamala Harris. Ibid.

⁷⁶ Quote: Rachel Maddow. Ibid.

⁷⁷ At this point Joe Biden repeated " -- when, in fact... when, in fact," because of an interruption of audience applause. We are not able to reproduce said applause in our virtual production so we are removing the repeats.

⁷⁸ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid. The Fix Staff. "Transcript: Night 2 of the first Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 28 Jun. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/28/transcript-night-first-democratic-debate/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

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HARRIS: But, Vice President Biden, do you agree today -- do you agree today that you were wrong to oppose bussing in America then? Do you agree?⁷⁹

BIDEN: I did not oppose bussing in America. What I opposed is bussing ordered by the Department of Education. That's what I opposed. I did not oppose...⁸⁰

HARRIS: Well, there was a failure of states to integrate public schools in America. I was part of the second class to integrate Berkeley, California, public schools almost two decades after Brown v. Board of Education.⁸¹

BIDEN: Because your city council made that decision. It was a local decision.⁸²

HARRIS: So that's where the federal government must step in.⁸³

BIDEN: The federal government...⁸⁴

HARRIS: That's why we have the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. That's why we need to pass the Equality Act. That's why we need to pass the ERA, because there are moments in history where states fail to preserve the civil rights of all people.⁸⁵

BIDEN: I've supported the ERA from the very beginning when I ran for...⁸⁶

MODERATOR: Vice President Biden, 30 seconds, because I want to bring other people into this.⁸⁷

BIDEN: I supported the ERA from the very beginning. I'm the guy that extended the Voting Rights Act for 25 years. We got to the place where we got 98 out of 98 votes in the United States Senate doing it. I've also argued very strongly that we, in fact, deal with the notion of denying people access to the ballot box. I agree that everybody, once they, in fact -- anyway, my time is up. I'm sorry.⁸⁸

MODERATOR: Thank you, Vice President.⁸⁹

⁷⁹ Quote: Kamala Harris. Ibid.

⁸⁰ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁸¹ Quote: Kamala Harris. Ibid.

⁸² Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁸³ Quote: Kamala Harris. Ibid.

⁸⁴ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁸⁵ Quote: Kamala Harris. Ibid.

⁸⁶ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁸⁷ Quote: Chuck Todd. Ibid.

⁸⁸ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁸⁹ Quote: Chuck Todd. Ibid.

HORSE RACE #2⁹⁰

ANNOUNCER: [295] And we're back. We have 25 candidates racing on the track, but uh oh. Here we are, July 8th and we have our second campaign suspension. Say goodbye to Eric Swalwell.⁹¹

SWALWELL: We have to be honest about our own candidacy and viability. Today ends our presidential campaign.⁹²

ANNOUNCER: [294] The very next day we have a *new* candidate entering the race. Billionaire former Hedge Fund Executive Tom Steyer!⁹³

STEYER: We can take our democracy back, together.⁹⁴

ANNOUNCER: [279] It's July 24 and we can now report that after a leaked chat log, rife with misogyny and racism, a popular uprising in Puerto Rico has ousted Governor Ricardo Roselló.⁹⁵

ANNOUNCER: [273] It's July 30 and we've got another debate.^{96/97}

⁹⁰ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁹¹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁹² Quote: Eric Swalwell. Epstein, Reid J, Alexander Burns and Matt Stevens. "Billionaire Tom Steyer May Enter the 2020 Field as Rep. Eric Swalwell Bows Out." *The New York Times*. 8 Jul. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/08/us/politics/steyer-swallowell-2020.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁹³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 13 Jun. 2020.

⁹⁴ Quote: tomsteyer.com. This slogan has since been taken down as the website was updated after Steyer dropped out of the primary process. Originally found here: Tom Steyer 2020. "Activisit." *Tom Steyer*. <https://www.tomsteyer.com>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁹⁵ Acevedo, Nicole, Alex Johnson, and Gabe Gutierrez. "Embattled Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigns amid public outcry." *NBC News*. 24 Jul. 2019. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/embattled-puerto-rico-gov-ricardo-rossell-resigns-amid-public-outcry-n1033241>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁹⁶ Democratic Presidential Debate on July 30, 2019 in Detroit, hosted by CNN. Video: "WATCH NIGHT ONE OF THE CNN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY DEBATE (5 VIDEOS)." *CNN politics*. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2019/07/31/democratic-primary-debate-sanders-warren-health-care-part-one-vpx.cnn/video/playlists/night-one-full-cnn-2020-democratic-primary-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: The Fix. "Transcript: The first night of the second Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 30 Jul. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/31/transcript-first-night-second-democratic-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁹⁷ Democratic Presidential Debate on July 31, 2019 in Detroit, hosted by CNN. Video: "WATCH NIGHT TWO OF THE CNN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY DEBATE (5 VIDEOS)." *CNN politics*. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2019/07/31/democratic-primary-debate-night-two-part-one-vpx.cnn>. 14 Jun. 2020. Transcript: The Fix. "Transcript: The second night of the second Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 31 Jul. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/31/transcript-first-night-second-democratic-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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SANDERS *[running in]*: "I wrote the damn bill!"⁹⁸

ANNOUNCER: Yes Senator, that was a nice soundbite.

ANNOUNCER: Well, said. And now I'd like to take this opportunity to remind our viewers how party nominees are chosen in this country. So let's go back to the founding of this country and to a system used for over 100 years.

GEE, U.S. VOTER^{99/100/101}

*[This song is a parody, set to the tune of "Gee, Officer Krupke" from the 1957 musical West Side Story, composed by Stephen Sondheim (lyrics) and Leonard Bernstein (music).]*¹⁰²

POPULIST:¹⁰³ Hey you!

PARTY BOSS¹⁰⁴: Who me? kookoo

POPULIST: Yeah, aren't you the party boss who's trying to tell us who the nominee should be? Now that we have a president and not a king, shouldn't we all vote on that?¹⁰⁵

⁹⁸ Quote: Bernie Sanders. The Fix. "Transcript: The first night of the second Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 30 Jul. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/31/transcript-first-night-second-democratic-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁹⁹ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

¹⁰⁰ This scene is made up of opinions that some members of Theater in Asylum hold and/or have encountered through personal and working relationships, as well as social media. These arguments have been drastically exaggerated for the purpose of theatrical satire. Sources for historical facts presented have been footnoted, but everything else is credited to the interpretation and bias of members of Theater in Asylum.

¹⁰¹ This song is set to start sometime before 1910.

¹⁰² "Gee, Officer Krupke." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 24 May. 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gee,_Officer_Krupke. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁰³ In this scene the "Populist" is written as a stereotypical "good guy." This produces lines with extreme bias but serves a theatrical purpose. The Populist is not based on a real person.

¹⁰⁴ In this scene the "Party Boss" is written as a stereotypical "bad guy." This produces lines with extreme bias but serves a theatrical purpose. The Party Boss is not based on a real person.

¹⁰⁵ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Political Machine." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/political-machine>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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PARTY BOSS: Woah, woah, woah. Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Most of our citizens can barely read.¹⁰⁶ We in the party know what's best and you can vote in November¹⁰⁷ between what our party and the other party have preselected for you.¹⁰⁸

POPULIST: That's not how democracy works. As a populist, I would know!

PARTY BOSS: I assure you. This is the only way to protect democracy from demogic tyrants.

POPULIST: What?

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪

Dear kindly US Voter
You gotta understand
It's just this new democracy
That's got you out of hand!
You say you want a say in things¹⁰⁹
But you can barely read¹¹⁰
Let the party tell you who should lead

The parties decide their own nominees
Cause how else would we build up this Democracy¹¹¹
O'er the final decision
We'll let you preside
Between the choices we decide¹¹²

We decide!
We decide! We decide!
It's the party who decides!

¹⁰⁶ This is a false statement: "Literacy from 1870 to 1979: Excerpts are taken from Chapter 1 of 120 Years of American Education: A Statistical Portrait (Edited by Tom Snyder, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993)." *National Center for Education Statistics*. https://nces.ed.gov/naal/lit_history.asp. 16 Jun. 2020.

This statement is based on the use of literacy tests to keep certain groups and individuals from being able to vote, especially people who are African American, immigrant, and/or lower class.

See: "Literacy as a requirement for voting." *Ballotpedia*. https://ballotpedia.org/Literacy_as_a_requirement_for_voting. 16 Jun. 2020.

Also: "Literacy Tests." *National Museum of American History*.

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/democracy-exhibition/vote-voice/keeping-vote/state-rules-federal-rules/literacy-tests>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁰⁷ Andrews, Evan. "Why Is Election Day a Tuesday in November?" *HISTORY*. 2 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/news/why-is-election-day-a-tuesday-in-november>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁰⁸ History.com Editors. "Presidential Elections." *HISTORY*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections-1>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁰⁹ Amar, Akhil Reed, and Richard Pildes. "The History of Presidential Primaries." *C-SPAN*. 5 Apr. 2016.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4590500/history-presidential-primaries>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹⁰ See Note 106.

¹¹¹ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹² History.com Editors. "Presidential Elections." *HISTORY*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections-1>. 16 Jun. 2020.

Who's our nominee, we decide!

POPULIST: Ok fine. You had total control for the first 150 years¹¹³ but now it's 1910 and Oregon wants to hold the country's very first primary!¹¹⁴

PARTY BOSS: Primary? What's a primary?

♪ POPULIST ♪

Dear awesome US voter
Now you really can decide
With this thing the primary¹¹⁵
In you the choice resides
You elect the delegates
Our power we will show
Choosing the nominee, the party we'll forgo¹¹⁶

PARTY BOSS: No!

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪

Listen up voter, you'll be in a bind!
This country is too big
You'll never make up your mind.
Contested conventions
Candidates that lose¹¹⁷
It is the party who should choose.

We will choose!
We will choose, we will choose!
It's the party who will choose!
To make sure we never ever lose!

POPULIST: Yeah but we did lose. Many times.¹¹⁸

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ "Oregon Presidential Primaries, Measure 29 (1910)." *Ballotpedia*.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_Presidential_Primaries_Measure_29_\(1910\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_Presidential_Primaries_Measure_29_(1910)). 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹⁵ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Primary Election." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*. 22 May 2020.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/primary-election>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹⁶ "1912 Democratic Party Platform." *The American Presidency Project*. 25 Jun. 1912.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/1912-democratic-party-platform>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹⁷ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹¹⁸ History.com Editors. "Presidential Elections." *HISTORY*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections-1>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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PARTY BOSS: Fine, how about some states have primaries and we'll decide for the rest.¹¹⁹

POPULIST: Fine, but now it's 1968 and most of the states that did hold primaries went for candidates *against* the Vietnam war.¹²⁰

PARTY BOSS: Yeah but we wanted Hubert Humphrey.¹²¹

POPULIST: Who never even ran in the primaries!¹²²

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪

Dear silly US voter,
The party saved the day!
Your primaries were cute and all
But we still had our say!
How could you know what's good for you
Or who could really win?
Hubert Humphrey, that's who we'll put in.¹²³

POPULIST: He lost!¹²⁴

♪ POPULIST ♪

The primary process is gonna come through.
Twenty-one and counting

¹¹⁹ Amar, Akhil Reed, and Richard Pildes. "The History of Presidential Primaries." C-SPAN. 5 Apr. 2016.
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4590500/history-presidential-primaries>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁰ Primary Results: "Democrats 1968, maps of primaries and convention vote." *Way Back Machine: Internet Archive*.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20091027101746/http://geocities.com/Athens/Rhodes/3991/Dem1968.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.
Also: "1968 Democratic Party presidential primaries." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. 7 Jun. 2020.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_Democratic_Party_presidential_primaries. 16 Jun. 2020.

Kennedy: Kennedy, Robert F. "REMARKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, MARCH 18, 1968." *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*. 18 Mar. 1968.
<https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/the-kennedy-family/robert-f-kennedy/robert-f-kennedy-speeches/remarks-at-the-university-of-kansas-march-18-1968>. 16 Jun. 2020.

McCarthy: The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Eugene McCarthy." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*.
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Eugene-McCarthy>. 16 Jun. 2020.

Smathers: The Associated Press. "George Smathers, 93; Democratic senator, Florida conservative." *Los Angeles Times*. 21 Jan. 2007. <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2007-jan-21-me-smathers21-story.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

Young: Rasky, Susan F. "STEPHEN YOUNG DIES; SERVED TWO TERMS IN SENATE FROM OHIO." *The New York Times*. 2 Dec. 1984. <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/12/02/obituaries/stephen-young-dies-served-two-terms-in-senate-from-ohio.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²¹ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²² Menand, Louis. "Lessons from the Election of 1968." *The New Yorker*. 1 Jan. 2018.
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/08/lessons-from-the-election-of-1968>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²³ Reilly, Katie. "Calls to Reform Democratic Nomination Process Have Roots in 1968 Convention." *TIME*. 25 Jul 2016.
<https://time.com/4414685/1968-democratic-convention-reform-geoffrey-cowan/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁴ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "United States presidential election of 1968." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1968/Conventions>. 16 Jun. 2020.

by seventy two.¹²⁵
We choose McGovern,¹²⁶

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪
Who lost to Nixon!¹²⁷

♪ POPULIST ♪
But next is Jimmy Carter,¹²⁸ we will win.
We will win!
We will win, we will win,
We will win win win

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪
When you trust *the party* we will win!

PARTY BOSS: We tried your way, picking the nominee with state primaries in 1972¹²⁹ and your guy lost to the Republicans in general.¹³⁰

POPULIST: But in 1976 Jimmy Carter went all the way.¹³¹

PARTY BOSS: To a single term! Reagan beat him in 1980.¹³² We must return power to the party.

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪
Dear crazy US Voter
This is our reprimand
For 30 years we'll rig this thing
You'll obey our command
We'll make it look like compromise
Where ev'ryone is heard.
To Super delegates power is transferred¹³³

¹²⁵ Skelley, Geoffrey. "The Modern History of the Democratic Presidential Primary, 1972-2008." *UVA Center for Politics*. 4 Feb. 2016. <http://centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/the-modern-history-of-the-democratic-presidential-primary-1972-2008/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁶ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁷ History.com Editors. "Presidential Elections." *HISTORY*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections-1>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁸ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ History.com Editors. "Presidential Elections." *HISTORY*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections-1>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Pruitt, Sarah. "What are Delegates and Superdelegates?" *HISTORY*. 20 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-a-delegate-and-superdelegate>. 16 Jun. 2020.

BERNIE SANDERS: Hey!

♪ BERNIE SANDERS ♪

[who makes only the slightest attempt to sing]

DNC Chairman,
You've done it again!
The millionaires and billionaires
The whole system's rigged!
No more super delegates.
Tipping the scale
Political revolution will avail!¹³⁴

♪ BERNIE SANDERS and POPULIST ♪

[who also make only the slightest attempt to sing]

Political revolution! Political revolution!
Political revolution! Political revolution!
Political revolution! Political revolution!

BERNIE SANDERS: In 2016, a sixth of all delegates at the convention were Party-appointed Superdelegates.¹³⁵ And who do you think those Party-appointed Superdelegates voted for?

PARTY BOSS: Well probably not a septuagenarian socialist who can't comb his hair.

BERNIE: That's right! They voted for my opponent!¹³⁶ But after she lost the White House, we had a reckoning and eliminated the role of superdelegates.¹³⁷

PARTY BOSS: Well.... *[fights back a laugh]*

POPULIST: What's so funny?

PARTY BOSS: Yes, you stripped superdelegates of power on the first ballot at the convention.
¹³⁸ *[laughs]*

¹³⁴ This is not a quote from Bernie Sanders, but is inspired by statements he has made. Example: CNN. "Bernie Sanders rips Democrats' superdelegate system." *Youtube*. 20 Mar. 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COeJ1f36W5g>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹³⁵ "Election 2016 — Democratic Delegate Count." *Real Clear Politics*.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/democratic_delegate_count.html. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ Associated Press in Chicago. "Democrats change superdelegates rules that enraged Sanders supporters." *The Guardian*. 25 Aug. 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/aug/25/democrats-rules-superdelegates-sanders>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹³⁸ "Democratic Superdelegate Rule Changes for 2020." *270 To Win*.
<https://www.270towin.com/content/superdelegate-rule-changes-for-the-2020-democratic-nomination>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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POPULIST: What's your point? We've been deciding nominees on the first ballot for 50 years.

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PARTY BOSS: But what *would* it take to get to a second ballot?

POPULIST: No one getting a majority on the first ballot.¹⁴⁰

PARTY BOSS: And how might that happen?

POPULIST [*Realizing this is a real possibility for 2020*]: A large... divided... field...¹⁴¹

PARTY BOSS: Yes!

♪ PARTY BOSS ♪

You voters all are crazy!

You voters all are dumb!

You voters all are lazy!

Most of you are scum!

You say you want democracy,

But you can barely read...

We are the ruling class, we decide who leads!

Soooo US voter,

Get down on your knees

It's us, not you, who picks our party's nominee.

Then the electoral college for us will come through

Hey! US voter, fuck you!

HORSE RACE #3¹⁴²

ANNOUNCER: [266] All right, folks. It's August 6 and we have a series of dropouts coming your way after that debate. Please say goodbye to former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel.¹⁴³

¹³⁹ Convention Summaries Bibliography. "Democratic National Political Conventions 1832-2008." *The Library of Congress Main Reading Room*. 26 Aug. 2016. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/polcon/democraticindex.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁰ "Democratic Superdelegate Rule Changes for 2020." *270 To Win*. <https://www.270towin.com/content/superdelegate-rule-changes-for-the-2020-democratic-nomination>. 16 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

¹⁴³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

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GRAVEL: The Gravelanche is not over.¹⁴⁴

ANNOUNCER: And yes, that really was a slogan of his.¹⁴⁵

ANNOUNCER: [260] It's August 12 and we have word that an anonymous whistleblower inside the White House has formally filed a complaint regarding President Trump and his dealings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.¹⁴⁶

ANNOUNCER: [257] Days later, it's time to say goodbye to John Hickenlooper.¹⁴⁷

HICKENLOOPER: Today, I'm ending my campaign for president, but I will never stop believing that America can only move forward when we work together.¹⁴⁸

ANNOUNCER: [251] And say goodbye to climate crusader, Washington Governor Jay Inslee.¹⁴⁹

INSLEE: I'm not going to be the president, so I'm withdrawing tonight from the race.¹⁵⁰

ANNOUNCER: [249] Two days later, it's Seth Moulton.¹⁵¹

MOULTON: I think it's evident that this is now a three-way race between Biden, Warren and Sanders.¹⁵²

ANNOUNCER: [244] A week later, it's Kirsten Gillibrand.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁴ Quote: Gravel Institute. @GravelInstitute. "The DNC kept us off the stage tonight even though we qualified, but the #Gravelanche is not over. We're gonna keep going. As the campaign ends, we're going to help build institutions on the left which can grow power, shape policy, and create strong activists for the long haul." Twitter. 31 Jul. 2019. 10:51 p.m. <https://twitter.com/GravelInstitute/status/1156759356597313539>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁵ Fitzpatrick, Kevin. "Mike Gravel and His Tweeting Teens Have Exited the 2020 Presidential Race." *Vanity Fair*. 2 Aug. 2019. <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2019/08/mike-gravel-teens-2020-campaign>. 15 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁶ Blake, Aaron, Philip Bump, and Irfan Uraizee. "The full Trump-Ukraine impeachment timeline." *The Washington Post*. 27 Jan. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/politics/trump-impeachment-timeline/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁷ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁸ Quote: John Hickenlooper. Korecki, Natasha, Nolan D McCaskill, and James Arkin. "Hickenlooper gives 'serious thought' to Senate run after ending presidential campaign." *POLITICO*. 15 Aug. 2019. <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/08/14/john-hickenlooper-2020-democrats-1463648>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁴⁹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵⁰ Quote: Jay Inslee. "Gov. Jay Inslee, Who Ran On Climate Change, Withdraws From Presidential Race." *NPR*. 21 Aug. 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/21/753294631/washington-gov-jay-inslee-withdraws-from-presidential-race>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵¹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵² Quote: Seth Moulton. Burns, Alexander. "Seth Moulton ends his 2020 campaign — with a warning." *boston.com*. 23 Aug. 2019. <https://www.boston.com/news/politics/2019/08/23/seth-moulton-ends-2020-campaign>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

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GILLIBRAND: I think being able to have a voice on a debate stage, when other candidates have that, is really important. And without it, I just didn't see our path.¹⁵⁴

ANNOUNCER: [229] Ok. Well, we have 229 days until the NY Primary.¹⁵⁵ It's September 12 and it's time for another debate.¹⁵⁶ Let's start with the zingers:

CASTRO: Mr. Vice President¹⁵⁷, Are you forgetting what you said 2 minutes ago?¹⁵⁸

O'ROURKE: Yes, we're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47. We're not going to allow it to be used against our fellow Americans anymore.¹⁵⁹

YANG: That's why I'm going to do something unprecedented tonight. My campaign will now give a freedom dividend of \$1,000 a month for an entire year to 10 American families, someone watching this at home right now. If you believe that you can solve your own problems better than any politician, go to yang2020.com.¹⁶⁰

BUTTIGIEG: The problem, Senator Sanders, with that damn bill that you wrote—¹⁶¹

ANNOUNCER: Oo, hold it right there, young padawan. The damn bill I believe you're referring to is Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All bill.¹⁶² So let's take a look at healthcare for a moment. Here we go!

HEALTHCARE¹⁶³

NARRATOR: Welcome, welcome! To the greatest circus you've ever seen! Come with us on a little tour-through-the-recent-ages of Health Insurance in the US of A. First up, meet Robin.

¹⁵⁴ Quote: Kirsten Gillibrand. Burns, Alexander. "Gillibrand Drops Out of 2020 Democratic Presidential Race." *The New York Times*. 28 Aug. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/28/us/politics/kirsten-gillibrand-2020-drop-out.html> 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵⁵ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵⁶ Democratic Presidential Debate on September 12, 2019 in Texas, hosted by ABC News. Video: ABC News. "ABC News Democratic Debate - WATCH THE FULL DEBATE (2019)." *Youtube*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UWV00Trd1c>. 19 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: The Fix Team. "Transcript: The third Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/13/transcript-third-democratic-debate/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵⁷ Added by members of Theater In Asylum to clarify who the following quote is directed towards.

¹⁵⁸ Quote: Julian Castro. The Fix team. "Transcript: The third Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/13/transcript-third-democratic-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁵⁹ Quote: Beto O'Rourke. Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Quote: Andrew Yang. Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. Ibid.

¹⁶² ABC News. "ABC News Democratic Debate - WATCH THE FULL DEBATE (2019)." *Youtube*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UWV00Trd1c>. 14 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶³ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

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ROBIN: I'm sick.

NARRATOR: Do you have insurance?¹⁶⁴

ROBIN: Yes, through my employer.

NARRATOR: Great! Then go find a primary care physician.¹⁶⁵

ROBIN: Ok. Hi Doc!

DOCTOR: Hello!

ROBIN: Are you in-network?¹⁶⁶

DOCTOR: I am!

ROBIN: Ahhchoo!

DOCTOR: Gezunterheit. Looks like you have... pneumonia! Co-pay please.¹⁶⁷ [*ROBIN hands money to DOCTOR*]

DOCTOR: Here's the bill. [*DOCTOR hands bill to INSURANCE*]

INSURANCE: I'll take that! Nom Nom Nom [*eats the bill*], I pay some of the bill, and give the rest to Robin.¹⁶⁸ Here's you go! [*spits out part of bill for ROBIN*]

ROBIN: Aw shucks.... Well, at least it's not too much money.¹⁶⁹

NARRATOR: This is the way Health Insurance started working --

ROBIN: Yeahhhhh, wait a minute. Why does America even have an employer-based insurance system?

NARRATOR: I'm glad you ask, because I had a blast researching this!¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁴ Villegas, Andrew. "Employer-Based Insurance Explained." *NPR*. 28 Sep. 2009.
<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113278095>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶⁵ "primary care provider (PCP)." *HealthInsurance.org*. <https://www.healthinsurance.org/glossary/primary-care-provider-pcp/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶⁶ "in network." *HealthInsurance.org*. <https://www.healthinsurance.org/glossary/in-network/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶⁷ "Copayment." *HealthInsurance.org*. <https://www.healthinsurance.org/glossary/copayment/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶⁸ "What's the difference between in network and out of network?" *Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan*.
<https://www.bcbsm.com/index/health-insurance-help/faqs/topics/how-health-insurance-works/difference-between-in-network-out-of-network-benefits.html>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁶⁹ This is an opinion that members of Theater in Asylum gave to the character.

¹⁷⁰ We hope you have a blast hearing/reading it!

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Employer-based health care largely began in this country because of World War II. The labor force so drastically shrank it was an employees' market. In order to attract and maintain the best workers, the companies were going to have to compete with one another. They couldn't pay people more because the country was just clawing out of the Great Depression and couldn't risk the inflation that would come with artificially raising wages. So they began to offer benefits - specifically health-insurance. And with some twists and turns we've gotten to here!¹⁷¹

But, what would you do if you didn't get insurance through your employer?

Some people got Medicaid, but that's only for people who fall below a certain income bracket.¹⁷² So what about the rest of Americans?

Some people bought private insurance and paid *all* the costs.¹⁷³ But that was prohibitively expensive for a lot of people.¹⁷⁴ So, one day a hero arrived, (*swooning*) President Barack Obama. Because of President Barack Obama and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi -

BIDEN: And me, Joe Biden, I was there too!¹⁷⁵

NARRATOR: Yes, oh course, who could forget you Uncle Joe. With Democrats controlling the House and Senate, they passed the Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010.¹⁷⁶

Let's see what it looks like to get insurance under what is colloquially referred to as Obamacare.¹⁷⁷ Let's say Robin just lost their job, and therefore their health insurance.

ROBIN: Aww shucks!

NARRATOR: Your new job does not offer employees health insurance so you are on your own to find it. So you turn to your state's Marketplace.¹⁷⁸

ROBIN: Ok.... I'm sick.

¹⁷¹ Information in this paragraph from: Carroll, Aaron E, "The Real Reason the U.S. Has Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance." *The New York Times*. 5 Sep. 2017.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/05/upshot/the-real-reason-the-us-has-employer-sponsored-health-insurance.html>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷² "Eligibility." *Medicaid.gov Keeping America Healthy*. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/index.html>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷³ Block, Erica. "A Step-By-Step Guide to Buying Individual Health Insurance." *Healthcare.com*. 13 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.healthcare.com/buying-individual-health-insurance-15854>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷⁴ Tozzi, John. "Health Insurance Costs Surpass \$20,000 Per Year, Hitting a Record." *Bloomberg*. 25 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-09-25/why-is-health-insurance-so-expensive-20-000-a-year-for-coverage>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷⁵ Stolberg, Sheryl Gay, and Robert Pear. "Obama Signs Health Care Overhaul Bill, With a Flourish." *The New York Times*. 23 Mar. 2010. <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/24/health/policy/24health.html>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ Levy, Michael. "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*. 20 Apr. 2020.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Patient-Protection-and-Affordable-Care-Act>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁷⁸ NY State of Health The Official Health Plan Marketplace. <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov>. 19 Jun. 2020.

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THE GOVERNMENT: Wait one minute!

ROBIN: Who are you?

THE GOVERNMENT: I'm The Government!!!!

ROBIN: Yikes.

THE GOVERNMENT: Before you get sick, give me some taxes!¹⁷⁹

ROBIN: How much?

THE GOVERNMENT: Only a little from middle class people like you.¹⁸⁰ You'll barely notice.¹⁸¹

ROBIN: Oh, ok. *[ROBIN passes money to THE GOVERNMENT]*

THE GOVERNMENT: And because you make less than 400% of the poverty line, here's a subsidy to help you buy insurance!¹⁸²

ROBIN: Cool!

NARRATOR: Great! Now that you've taken that subsidy and gotten yourself insured, *now* you can see a doctor..

ROBIN: Ok. Hi Doc!

DOCTOR: Hello!

ROBIN: Are you in-network?

DOCTOR: I am!

ROBIN: Ahhchoo!

DOCTOR: Gezunterheit. Looks like you have... pneumonia! Co-pay please. *[ROBIN hands money to DOCTOR]*

¹⁷⁹ ObamaCareFact.com. "ObamaCare Tax: Full List of ObamaCare Taxes." *ObamaCare Facts*. 21 Jan. 2020. <https://obamacarefacts.com/obamacare-taxes/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ This is an opinion that members of Theater in Asylum gave to the Government character.

¹⁸² "The Affordable Care Act: A Brief Summary." *NCSL National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/the-affordable-care-act-brief-summary.aspx>. 19 Jun. 2020.

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DOCTOR: Here's the bill. *[DOCTOR hands bill to INSURANCE]*

INSURANCE: I'll take that! Nom Nom Nom *[eats the bill]*, I pay some of the bill, and give the rest to Robin. Here's you go! *[Spits out part of bill for ROBIN]*

ROBIN: Aw darn it.... That's still a good amount of money I have to pay. I'm not sure if going to the doctor was worth it...¹⁸³

NARRATOR: Fast Forward, and in the Democratic Presidential Primary,¹⁸⁴ we had a lot of ideas for how to build upon, re-work or tear-up the Affordable Care Act. There's one plan in particular that gained a lot of traction thanks to a democratic socialist you might know.

SANDERS: Healthcare in my view is a human right and we have got to pass a Medicare for all single-payer system. Under that system by the way, vast majority of the people in this country will be paying significantly less for healthcare than they are right now.¹⁸⁵

NARRATOR: For what feels like centuries,¹⁸⁶ you have all heard Senator Sanders describe Medicare-for-All as a single-payer system.

ROBIN: Who's the single payer?

THE GOVERNMENT: Meeeee!!!¹⁸⁷

ROBIN: Who gets covered by the insurance?

NARRATOR: Everyone!¹⁸⁸

ROBIN: Oh ok. I don't feel so good.

THE GOVERNMENT: Wait! Before you get sick, give me some taxes!

ROBIN: Just me?

¹⁸³ This is an opinion that members of Theater in Asylum gave to the character.

¹⁸⁴ The following candidate quotes were taken from multiple different debates.

¹⁸⁵ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Transcript: The Fix Staff. "Transcript: Night 2 of the first Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 28 Jun. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/28/transcript-night-first-democratic-debate/>. 13 Jun. 2020.

¹⁸⁶ This is an opinion that members of Theater in Asylum gave to the character.

¹⁸⁷ MD Christopher, Andreas S. "Single payer healthcare: Pluses, minuses, and what it means for you." *Harvard Health Publishing Harvard Medical School*. 27 Jun. 2016.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/single-payer-healthcare-pluses-minuses-means-201606279835>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

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THE GOVERNMENT: No, everybody. Everyone has to pay a portion of taxes for this initiative.¹⁸⁹

ROBIN: Will I notice the increase? [ROBIN & NARRATOR pass money to THE GOVERNMENT]

THE GOVERNMENT: Probably, but single-payer advocates believe this tax increase will be less than what you're already paying in premiums, deductibles, and copays.¹⁹⁰

ROBIN: Oh, ok... I'm sick. [to NARRATOR] aren't you going to ask me if I have insurance?

NARRATOR: No! Everyone is covered for basic health care needs.

ROBIN: Ok. ...Hi Doc!

DOCTOR: Hello!

ROBIN: Are you in-network?

DOCTOR: There are no networks any more!¹⁹¹ Anyone can go to any doctor!

ROBIN: Ok. Ahhchoo!

DOCTOR: Gezunterheit. Looks like you have... pneumonia!

ROBIN: Aren't you going to ask me for a copay?

DOCTOR: There are no copays anymore!¹⁹²

DOCTOR [to THE GOVERNMENT]: Here's the bill. [DOCTOR passes bill to THE GOVERNMENT]

THE GOVERNMENT: Nom Nom Nom!

ROBIN: Aren't you going to give me the rest?

¹⁸⁹ Kliff, Sarah. "Bernie Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan, explained." *Vox*. 10 Apr. 2019.

<https://www.vox.com/2019/4/10/18304448/bernie-sanders-medicare-for-all>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹⁰ MD Christopher, Andreas S. "Single payer healthcare: Pluses, minuses, and what it means for you." *Harvard Health Publishing Harvard Medical School*. 27 Jun. 2016.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/single-payer-healthcare-pluses-minuses-means-201606279835>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹¹ Ali, Samad, Jon Naqvi, and Ali Suleman. "Single-Payer Healthcare System." *Youtube*. 16 Apr. 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeTL2M8fEF0&feature=youtu.be>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹² MD Christopher, Andreas S. "Single payer healthcare: Pluses, minuses, and what it means for you." *Harvard Health Publishing Harvard Medical School*. 27 Jun. 2016.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/single-payer-healthcare-pluses-minuses-means-201606279835>. 19 Jun. 2020.

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THE GOVERNMENT: No! This system covers all your basic healthcare needs!¹⁹³

NARRATOR: In terms of a single-payer system, after Bernie Sanders, the next most fervent supporter of the idea is Senator Elizabeth Warren.

WARREN: So, yes, I'm with Bernie on Medicare for All, and let me tell you why. I've spent a big chunk of my life studying why families go broke, and one of the number one reasons is the cost of healthcare, medical bills. And that's not just for people who don't have insurance. It's for people who have insurance. Look at the business model of an insurance company. It's to bring in as many dollars as they can in premiums and to pay out as few dollars as possible for your healthcare. That leaves families with rising premiums, rising co-pays, and fighting with insurance companies to try to get the healthcare that their doctors say that they and their children need. Medicare for All solves that problem.¹⁹⁴

NARRATOR: But a lot of candidates think single payer is impractical. There's the price tag to consider

BIDEN: The plan is going to cost at least \$30 trillion over 10 years. That is more on a yearly basis than the entire federal budget. And we talk about how we're going to pay for it. The study recently came out showing that, in fact, it will reduce costs. But for people making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a year, their taxes are going to go up about \$5,000. That is more than they will possibly save on this health care plan.¹⁹⁵

NARRATOR: It's also not popular with lots of voters across the United States

BUTTIGIEG: For example, on health care, the reason I insist on "Medicare for all who want it" as the strategy to deliver on that goal we share of universal health care is that that is something that as a governing strategy we can unify the American people around, creating a version of Medicare, making it available to anybody who wants it, but without the divisive step of ordering people onto it whether they want to or not.¹⁹⁶

NARRATOR: As well, the practicality of passing the bill...

KLOBUCHAR: This debate isn't real. Over two-thirds of the Democrats in the U.S. Senate are not on the bill that you [Senator Sanders] and Sen. Warren are on. You have numerous

¹⁹³ Ali, Samad, Jon Naqvi, and Ali Suleman. Single-Payer Healthcare System." *Youtube*. 16 Apr. 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeTL2M8fEF0&feature=youtu.be>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹⁴ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. "Full Transcript: Democratic Presidential Debates, Night 1." *The New York Times*. 26 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/us/politics/democratic-debate-transcript.html>. 19 Jun. 2019.

¹⁹⁵ Quote: Joe Biden. The Fix team. "The October Democratic debate transcript." *The Washington Post*. 16 Oct. 2019.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/15/october-democratic-debate-transcript/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹⁶ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. "Read: Democratic debate transcript, November 20, 2019." *NBC News*. 21 Nov. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/read-democratic-debate-transcript-november-20-2019-n1088186>. 19 Jun. 2020.

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governors that are Democratic that don't support this.¹⁹⁷

NARRATOR: And then there is the fear that the quality of the actual health care is going to go down....

DELANEY: So the bill that Senator Sanders drafted, by definition will lower quality in healthcare, because it says specifically that the rates will be the same as current Medicare rates. And the data is clear, Medicare does not cover the cost of healthcare, it covers 80 percent of the costs of healthcare in this country. And private insurance covers 120 percent, so if you start underpaying all the healthcare providers, you're going to create a two tier market where wealthy people buy their healthcare with cash, and the people who are forced -- like my dad, the union electrician -- Will have that healthcare plan taken away from him -- They will be forced into an underfunded system.¹⁹⁸

NARRATOR: Talk to anyone you know on Medicare... People have OPINIONS about it! So, this is all why candidates came up with their own health insurance options. Some though, kept a very key word in common....

HARRIS: I support Medicare-for-all, I always have, but I wanted to make the plan better, which I did.¹⁹⁹

BUTTIGIEG: My plan is called Medicare for All Who Want It. It's just better than Medicare for All, whether you want it or not.²⁰⁰

O'ROURKE: I have a better path. Medicare for America.²⁰¹

BIDEN: I will fight to give Americans a new choice, a public health insurance option *like* Medicare.²⁰²

NARRATOR: Ok, ok! I'm going to stop you because I've heard this one already.

So Robin, what do you think?

¹⁹⁷ Quote: Amy Klobuchar. "Read the full transcript of Tuesday night's CNN/Des Moines Register debate." *Des Moines Register*. 14 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2020/01/14/democratic-debate-transcript-what-the-candidates-said-quotes/4460789002/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹⁸ Quote: John Delaney. The Fix. "Transcript: The first night of the second Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 30 Jul. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/31/transcript-first-night-second-democratic-debate/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

¹⁹⁹ Quote: Kamala Harris. The Fix Team. "Transcript: The third Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/13/transcript-third-democratic-debate/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

²⁰⁰ Not a quote, but inspired by Pete Buttigieg quotes in: The Fix team. "The October Democratic debate transcript." *The Washington Post*. 16 Oct. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/15/october-democratic-debate-transcript/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁰¹ Quote: Beto O'Rourke. The Fix. "Transcript: The first night of the second Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 30 Jul. 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/31/transcript-first-night-second-democratic-debate/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

²⁰² "Healthcare." *Biden President*. <https://joebiden.com/healthcare/>. 19 Jun. 2020.

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ROBIN: I think I have a headache.

DOCTOR: Pneumonia!

NARRATOR: Well, better luck next time!

HORSE RACE #4²⁰³

ANNOUNCER: [221] Oy vey. I have a headache too. Speaking of headaches, I have just the remedy for the New Yorkers out there. It's September 20th and suspending his campaign, is New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.²⁰⁴

DE BLASIO: I feel like I've contributed all I can to this primary election, and it's clearly not my time.

ANNOUNCER: Could have told ya that months ago, Mr. Mayor. [217] All right, it's September 24 and Nancy Pelosi has a big announcement.²⁰⁵

PELOSI: Therefore today, I'm announcing the House of Representatives moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry. I'm directing our six committees to proceed with their investigations under that umbrella... of impeachment inquiry. The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law.²⁰⁶

ANNOUNCER: [207] It's October 4 and we are hearing reports that Bernie Sanders has had a heart attack. The 78 year old contender is at home in Vermont recovering and is expected to appear on this month's debate stage.²⁰⁷

ANNOUNCER: [194] It's October 11 and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan has resigned. The departing secretary faced numerous controversies during his tenure, most notably his support for the president's policy of separating migrant children from their families at the US Mexico border.²⁰⁸

²⁰³ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

²⁰⁴ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁰⁵ Blake, Aaron, Philip Bump, and Irfan Uraizee. "The full Trump-Ukraine impeachment timeline." *The Washington Post*. 27 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/politics/trump-impeachment-timeline/>." 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁰⁶ Quote: Nancy Pelosi. Fandos, Nicholas. "Nancy Pelosi Announces Formal Impeachment Inquiry of Trump." *The New York Times*. 24 Sep. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/24/us/politics/democrats-impeachment-trump.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁰⁷ Ember, Sydney. "Bernie Sanders Had Heart Attack, His Doctors Say as He Leaves Hospital." *The New York Times*. 4 Oct. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/04/us/politics/bernie-sanders-hospital.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁰⁸ Kanno-Youngs, Zolan, Maggie Haberman, Michael D Shear. "Kevin McAleenan Resigns as Acting Homeland Security Secretary." *The New York Times*. 11 Oct. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/11/us/politics/kevin-mcaleenan-homeland-security.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

ANNOUNCER: For more on this, let's head into the next debate. [194] With 194 days until the NY Primary,²⁰⁹ It's October 15.²¹⁰

IMMIGRATION²¹¹

MODERATOR: We're going to turn now to the topic of immigration. Everyone on this stage has denounced the current administration's use of family separation as a way to deter illegal immigration.²¹² Decriminalizing border crossing has been debated as a way to remove the legal justification for that family separation, but not all of you support decriminalization. Secretary Castro, you have a specific plan to achieve decriminalization. Could you please elaborate?²¹³

CASTRO: My plan also includes getting rid of Section 1325 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, to go back to the way we used to treat this when somebody comes across the border, not to criminalize desperation, to treat that as a civil violation. And here's why it's important. We see all of this horrendous family separation. They use that law, Section 1325, to justify under the law separating little children from their families.²¹⁴ And so I want to challenge every single candidate on this stage to support the repeal of Section 1325.²¹⁵

MODERATOR: Senator Booker?²¹⁶

BOOKER: As my friend here said, I agree with him on that issue, but folks should understand that the separation of children from families doesn't just go on at our border. It happens in our communities, as ICE are ripping away parents from their American children, spouses and the

²⁰⁹ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²¹⁰ Democratic Presidential Debate on October 15, 2019 in Ohio, hosted by CNN and The New York Times.

Video: "Part 1 of the CNN/NYT Democratic Presidential Debate." *CNN politics*. 16 Oct. 2019.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2019/10/16/part-1-cnn-nyt-democratic-presidential-debate-ohio-october-15-2019.cnn>. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: The Fix team. "The October Democratic debate transcript." *The Washington Post*. 16 Oct. 2019.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/15/october-democratic-debate-transcript/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²¹¹ The following scene is a combination of quotes from different debates, interviews, and articles, and lines written by Theater In Asylum to create a mock debate around immigration, followed by an educational section.

²¹² "2020 presidential candidates on immigration." *Ballotpedia*. https://ballotpedia.org/2020_presidential_candidates_on_immigration. 17 Jun. 2020.

²¹³ Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapitl, and Alyson Hurt. "Immigration: Where 2020 Democratic Candidates Stand On Border Crossings And More." *NPR*. 12 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/12/759442642/immigration-where-2020-democratic-candidates-stand-on-border-crossings-and-more>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²¹⁴ Quote: Julián Castro. "Full Transcript: Democratic Presidential Debates, Night 1." *The New York Times*. 26 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/us/politics/democratic-debate-transcript.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²¹⁵ Quote: Julián Castro. *Ibid*.

²¹⁶ Line added by members of Theater In Asylum.

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like, and are creating fear in cities all across this country where parents are afraid to even drop their kids off to school or go to work. We must end those policies, as well.²¹⁷

MODERATOR: Mayor Buttigieg? Do you support decriminalization of border crossing?²¹⁸

BUTTIGIEG: Yes. I believe that unlawful crossings of the border should be handled through the civil legal process, not through criminal law.²¹⁹

MODERATOR: Senator Warren?

WARREN: Yes. As president, I will immediately issue guidance to end criminal prosecutions for simple administrative immigration violations.²²⁰

MODERATOR: Senator Sanders?

SANDERS: I believe crossing the border should be a civil, not a criminal, offense. No human being is illegal, and we should not treat families who travel thousands of miles to escape violence and misery as criminals.²²¹

MODERATOR: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Vice President, would you decriminalize crossing the border without documents?

BIDEN: ... No. But unlike the Trump Administration, I would ensure that U.S. immigration law would be enforced humanely.²²²

MODERATOR: So just to expand on the issue for a moment.²²³ The Obama-Biden administration deported more than 3 million Americans. If an individual is living in the United States of America without documents, and that is his only offense, should that person be deported?²²⁴

²¹⁷ Quote: Cory Booker. "Full Transcript: Democratic Presidential Debates, Night 1." The New York Times. 26 Jun. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/us/politics/democratic-debate-transcript.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²¹⁸ Line and following questions written by members of Theater in Asylum.

²¹⁹ Quote from Pete Buttigieg campaign email to NPR: Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapitl, and Alyson Hurt. "Immigration: Where 2020 Democratic Candidates Stand On Border Crossings And More." *NPR*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/12/759442642/immigration-where-2020-democratic-candidates-stand-on-border-crossings-and-more>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²²⁰ Quote from Elizabeth Warren campaign email to NPR: Ibid.

²²¹ Quote from Bernie Sanders campaign email to NPR: Ibid.

²²² Quote from Joe Biden campaign email to NPR: Ibid.

²²³ Line added by members of Theater In Asylum.

²²⁴ Quote: José Díaz-Balart. Kimelman, Jeremia. "Full transcript: 2019 Democratic debate Night Two, sortable by topic." *NBC News*. 28 Jun. 2019. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/full-transcript-2019-democratic-debate-night-two-sortable-topic-n1023601>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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BIDEN: Depending if they committed a major crime, they should be deported.²²⁵ But the fact is that, look, we should not be locking people up. We should be making sure we change the circumstance, as we did, why they would leave in the first place. And those who come seeking asylum, we should immediately have the capacity to absorb them, keep them safe until they can be heard.²²⁶

MODERATOR: Fifteen seconds, if you could, if you wish to answer. Should someone who is here without documents, and that is his only offense, should that person be deported?²²⁷

BIDEN: That person should not be the *focus* of deportation. We should fundamentally change the way we deal with things.²²⁸

MODERATOR: What about you, Senator Klobuchar?²²⁹ Do you support decriminalizing unauthorized border crossings?²³⁰

KLOBUCHAR: No, I've made that clear, that I think we need to look at that law, but that I do not support getting rid of that entire law.²³¹ I would immediately end the policy of family separation and change enforcement priorities so that criminal penalties are reserved for those who threaten the safety and security of our country.²³²

MODERATOR: I see. I'd like to pivot back to Mr. Castro, who has a very specific proposal to solving this problem. Mr. Castro, would you care to explain?²³³

CASTRO: Let's be very clear. The reason that they're separating these little children from their families is that they're using Section 1325 of that act which criminalizes coming across the border to incarcerate the parents and then separate them.²³⁴

I think that you should do your homework on this issue. If you did your homework on this issue, you would know that we should repeal this section.²³⁵

²²⁵ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

²²⁶ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

²²⁷ Quote: José Díaz-Balart. Ibid.

²²⁸ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

²²⁹ Line added by members of Theater In Asylum.

²³⁰ Quote: Robert Costa. Washington Post Live. "Transcript: The 2020 Candidates: Sen. Amy Klobuchar." *The Washington Post*. 24 Oct. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/2019/10/24/transcript-candidates-sen-amy-klobuchar/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²³¹ Quote: Amy Klobuchar. Ibid.

²³² Quote from Amy Klobuchar campaign email to NPR. Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapitl, and Alyson Hurt. "Immigration: Where 2020 Democratic Candidates Stand On Border Crossings And More." *NPR*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/12/759442642/immigration-where-2020-democratic-candidates-stand-on-border-crossings-and-more>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²³³ Line added by members of Theater In Asylum.

²³⁴ Quote: Julián Castro. "Full Transcript: Democratic Presidential Debates, Night 1." *The New York Times*. 26 Jun. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/us/politics/democratic-debate-transcript.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²³⁵ Quote: Julián Castro. Phillips, Amber and Eugene Scott. "The first Democratic debate night transcript, annotated." *The Washington Post*. 27 Jun. 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/27/transcript-night-one-first-democratic-debate-annotated/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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MODERATOR: Ok Secretary Castro. Let's do some homework for our audience. And how better than with the magic of theater and a parade of dead presidents?²³⁶

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Hello, hello. I'm America's first president, George Washington, and in 1790 I signed the Naturalization Act, allowing free persons of "good character" to apply for citizenship of this great nation.²³⁷

MODERATOR: Indeed. Excluded from this act were enslaved people,²³⁸ approximately 18% of the population according to the 1790 census,²³⁹ as well as Native Americans, who were not even counted in that census.²⁴⁰ So, some figure we'll never know, that's higher than 18% of people living in the United States, were denied citizenship.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: That's right. But "I had always hoped that this land might become a safe and agreeable asylum to the virtuous and persecuted part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong."²⁴¹

MODERATOR: For the next 100 years, although citizenship was tightly defined, immigration law largely went unregulated by the federal government. Various localities enacted laws which defined illegal immigration, until 1875 when the Supreme Court determined immigration to be a federal issue.²⁴²

CHESTER ARTHUR: Hello! I'm America's 21st president: Chester Arthur. In 1882 I signed the first broad federal immigration law: The Chinese Exclusion Act.²⁴³ This act banned most immigrants coming from China,²⁴⁴ as well as people who were poor, mentally ill, or convicted of certain crimes.²⁴⁵

²³⁶ This and the following lines for the "parade of dead presidents" were written by members of Theater in Asylum.

²³⁷ History.com Editors. "U.S. Immigration Timeline." *HISTORY*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²³⁸ Ibid.

²³⁹ O'Neill, Aaron. "Black and slave population in the United States 1790-1880." *Statista*. 12 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1010169/black-and-slave-population-us-1790-1880/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁰ "1790 Overview." *United States Census Bureau*. https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1790.html. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴¹ Washington, George. "From George Washington to Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, 28 May 1788." *National Archives: Founders Online*. 28 May 1788. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/04-06-02-0266>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴² "Early American Immigration Policies." *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*. 4 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/our-history/overview-ins-history/early-american-immigration-policies>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴³ History.com Staff. "Chinese Exclusion Act." *HISTORY*. 13 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/chinese-exclusion-act-1882>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁴ "Forty Seventh Congress, Session I, Chapter 126." 6 May 1882.

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/47th-congress/session-1/c47s1ch126.pdf>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

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BENJAMIN HARRISON: And I'm president Benjamin Harrison.²⁴⁶ In 1891, I went further to criminalize polygamists, people convicted of other crimes, and the sick from entering the country.²⁴⁷

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT: Hello! I'm Representative John Lawson Burnett, Democrat of Alabama,²⁴⁸ and in 1916 I supported a bill that would implement a literacy test as a prerequisite for immigration.²⁴⁹

WOODROW WILSON: Hello! I'm Woodrow Wilson and after Congress passed that bill, I vetoed it!²⁵⁰

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT: And the House of Representatives overrode your veto.²⁵¹

MODERATOR: The Senate following suit 4 days later.

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT [*triumphantly*]: The Immigration Act of 1917 not only implemented a literacy test, but it also expanded the list of "undesirables" criminalized when entering the country. This list would now include: alcoholics, anarchists, contract laborers, criminals, convicts, epileptics, "feeble-minded persons," "idiots," "illiterates," "imbeciles," "insane persons," "paupers," "persons with contagious disease," "persons being mentally or physically defective," "persons with constitutional psychopathic inferiority," "political radicals," polygamists, prostitutes, and vagrants.²⁵²

WOODROW WILSON: The Act also barred immigrants from eight Asian countries plus the Soviet Union east of the Ural Mountains, and most Polynesian islands.²⁵³

CALVIN COOLIDGE: Hello. I'm President Calvin Coolidge and in 1924, I signed a bill enacting further quotas limiting who could immigrate to the United States.²⁵⁴ This law favored immigrants from Northern and Western Europe, while almost completely banning immigration

²⁴⁶ History.com Editors. "Benjamin Harrison." *HISTORY*. 21 Aug. 2018.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/benjamin-harrison>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁷ History.com Editors. "U.S. Immigration Timeline." *HISTORY*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁸ "BURNETT, John Lawson." *History, Art, and Archives: United States House of Representatives*.

[https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/B/BURNETT,-John-Lawson-\(B001121\)/](https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/B/BURNETT,-John-Lawson-(B001121)/). 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁴⁹ "Sixty Fourth Congress, Session II, Chapter 29." 5 Feb. 1917.

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/64th-congress/session-2/c64s2ch29.pdf>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵⁰ History.com Editors. "Immigration Act Passed over President Wilson's veto." *HISTORY*. 4 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/immigration-act-passed-over-wilsons-veto>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵¹ Ibid.

²⁵² "Sixty Fourth Congress, Session II, Chapter 29." 5 Feb. 1917.

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/64th-congress/session-2/c64s2ch29.pdf>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵³ Longley, Robert. "US Immigration Act of 1917." *ThoughtCo*. 3 Oct. 2019.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/us-immigration-act-of-1917-4125136>. 17 Jun. 20

²⁵⁴ History.com Editors. "President Coolidge signs Immigration Act of 1924." *HISTORY*. 21 May 2020.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/coolidge-signs-stringent-immigration-law>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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from Asia²⁵⁵ The same year, US Border Control was established to crack down on illegal immigrants entering via the Mexican and Canadian borders.²⁵⁶

MODERATOR: And here's where we get to the crux of our story and Section 1325 that Secretary Castro keeps bringing up.

HERBERT HOOVER: I'm Herbert Hoover and in 1929 I signed a bill that formally criminalized crossing into the United States *between* ports of entry. Thanks to this legislation, for the first time in U.S. history, the mere act of entering the United States at a non-designated port of entry was a crime.²⁵⁷

MODERATOR: Whereas before, it was just a civil offense, resulting in a fine or deportation. But now, violators could be jailed. They would be deemed criminals.²⁵⁸

CASTRO: That is the law that this president, this administration, is using to incarcerate migrant parents and then physically separate them from their children.²⁵⁹

MODERATOR: I see.

HARRY TRUMAN: I'm Harry Truman! In 1952 Congress overrode my veto and enacted the Immigration and Nationality Act, making changes to who can apply for citizenship, and reordered the preferences for who can immigrate to the country.²⁶⁰

LYNDON B JOHNSON: I'm Lyndon B. Johnson and in 1965 I replaced national origin quotas with a system giving preference to immigrants with skills and close ties to those already here.²⁶¹

RONALD REAGAN: I'm Ronald Reagan and in 1986, I signed legislation making it illegal to knowingly hire someone who had immigrated to the United States illegally.²⁶²

²⁵⁵ History.com Editors. "U.S. Immigration Timeline." *HISTORY*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵⁶ Little, Becky. "The Violent History of the U.S.-Mexico Border." *HISTORY*. 14 Mar. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵⁷ "UNDESIRABLE ALIENS ACT OF 1929 (BLEASE'S LAW)." *Immigration and Ethnic History Society*.

<https://immigrationhistory.org/item/undesirable-aliens-act-of-1929-bleases-law/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁹ Quote: Julián Castro. "Democratic debate transcript: July 31, 2019." *NBC News*. 31 Jul. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/democratic-debate-transcript-july-31-2019-n1038016>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶⁰ "The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (The McCarran-Walter Act)." *Office of the Historian*.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/immigration-act>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶¹ History.com Editors. "U.S. Immigration Timeline." *HISTORY*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶² "Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986." *Ballotpedia*.

https://ballotpedia.org/Immigration_Reform_and_Control_Act_of_1986. 17 Jun. 2020.

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MODERATOR: But that act also granted amnesty to more than 3 million people who had immigrated illegally.²⁶³

BARACK OBAMA: I'm Barack Obama and in 2012 I signed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) temporarily shielding some children of people who have immigrated illegally from deportation, though still denying a path to citizenship.²⁶⁴

And in 2017 my successor issued two executive orders—both titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”—effectively banning immigration from six majority-Muslim countries, plus North Korea and Venezuela.²⁶⁵

MODERATOR: And here we are. The travel ban is still in effect and immigration has only tightened in recent months.²⁶⁶ The policy of child separation supposedly ended at the US Mexico border, but reports continue to show otherwise and efforts to reunite children already separated continues.²⁶⁷

CASTRO:²⁶⁸ Part 8, Section 1325 of US Immigration law states that, “Any alien who enters or attempts to enter the United States at any time or place *other than* as designated by immigration officers... *shall*... be fined... or imprisoned... or both.”²⁶⁹

MODERATOR: Since July 2017, more than 5,400 children have been separated from their parents at the US Mexico border. While most of those children were aged 6-18, according to The U.S. Health and Human Services Department's internal watchdog, children separated in the first year of the policy included 207 children younger than age 5, and five infants less than one year old.²⁷⁰

MODERATOR: Marianne Williamson, would you like to close on this issue?

²⁶³ History.com Editors. “U.S. Immigration Timeline.” *HISTORY*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

²⁶⁵ Ibid.

²⁶⁶ Kanno-Youngs, Zolan, and Maggie Haberman. “Trump Administration Moves to Solidify Restrictive Immigration Policies.” *The New York Times*. 12 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/us/politics/coronavirus-trump-immigration-policies.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶⁷ “Family separation under the Trump administration – a timeline.” *SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center*. 17 Jun. 2020. <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2020/06/17/family-separation-under-trump-administration-timeline#2020>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁶⁸ Julián Castro did not say these words during any debate, but we are using his character to read the law in this scene.

²⁶⁹ Legal Information Institute. U.S. Code 1325.” *Cornell Law School*. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1325>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁷⁰ Associated Press. “More than 5,400 children split at border, according to new count.” *NBC News*. 25 Oct. 2019. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/more-5-400-children-split-border-according-new-count-n1071791>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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WILLIAMSON: I would.²⁷¹ What Donald Trump has done to these children²⁷² -- it is kidnapping, and it's extremely important for us to realize that. If you forcibly take a child from their parents' arms, you are kidnapping them.

And if you take a lot of children and you put them in a detention center, that's inflicting chronic trauma upon them. That's called child abuse. This is collective child abuse.²⁷³

And if your government does it, that doesn't make it less of a crime. These are state-sponsored crimes.²⁷⁴

And what President Trump has done is not only attack these children, not only demonize these immigrants, he is attacking a basic principle of America's moral core. We open our hearts to the stranger.

This is extremely important. And it's also important for all of us.²⁷⁵

HORSE RACE #5²⁷⁶

ANNOUNCER: [187] And welcome back. The race is still going, with more candidates than anyone can seem to remember, but here we are. It's October 24, and we have a few horses leaving the race this week. Say goodbye to Ohio Representative Tim Ryan.²⁷⁷

ANNOUNCER: [179]... and Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke.²⁷⁸

ANNOUNCER: [166] But look! It looks like we have a late entry to the race. Please welcome former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick.²⁷⁹

DEVAL: Deval for all!²⁸⁰

²⁷¹ Line added by members of Theater In Asylum.

²⁷² Quote: Marianne Williamson. Kimelman, Jeremia. "Full transcript: 2019 Democratic debate Night Two, sortable by topic." *NBC News*. 28 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/full-transcript-2019-democratic-debate-night-two-sortable-topic-n1023601>. 17 Jun. 2020.

²⁷³ Quote: Marianne Williamson. Ibid.

²⁷⁴ Quote: Marianne Williamson. Ibid.

²⁷⁵ Quote: Marianne Williamson. Ibid.

²⁷⁶ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

²⁷⁷ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ Quote: Deval For All. "Meet Deval." *Deval Patrick*. <https://devalpatrick2020.com>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [160] Cool slogan. Moving on! November 20, leaving race is Wayne Messam.²⁸¹

ANNOUNCER: And that same night, we have another debate!²⁸²

SANDERS: I think Joe is right.²⁸³

YANG: I just want to stick up for Tom.²⁸⁴

STEYER: Thanks, Andrew.²⁸⁵

WARREN: So when you make it big, when you make it really big, when you make it top one tenth of one percent big, pitch in two cents so everybody else gets a chance to make it.²⁸⁶

ANNOUNCER: [156] What a friedly debate. Back to the race!

Oy vey! My friends, another New York City Mayor is entering the race. With 156 days until the NY Primary,²⁸⁷ it's November 24. Say hello to Michael Bloomberg.²⁸⁸

BLOOMBERG: I'm Michael Bloomberg, a new choice for Democrats.²⁸⁹

[ANNOUNCER puts head in hand, exasperated that New York City Mayors continue to wreak havoc on our lives.]

NAME SONG^{290/291}

SKEPTIC: Wait a minute! How many people are running president?

²⁸¹ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁸² Democratic Presidential Debate on November 20, 2019 in Georgia, hosted by MSNBC and The Washington Post. Video: MSNBC. "MSNBC & Washington Post Democratic Debate (Full Length) - November 20, 2019 | MSNBC." *Youtube*. 21 Nov. 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_3F2h_FT98. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "Read: Democratic debate transcript, November 20, 2019." *NBC News*. 21 Nov. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/read-democratic-debate-transcript-november-20-2019-n1088186>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁸³ Quote: Bernie Sanders. "Read: Democratic debate transcript, November 20, 2019." *NBC News*. 21 Nov. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/read-democratic-debate-transcript-november-20-2019-n1088186>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁸⁴ Quote: Andrew Yang. *Ibid*.

²⁸⁵ Quote: Tom Steyer. *Ibid*.

²⁸⁶ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. *Ibid*.

²⁸⁷ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁸⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁸⁹ Quote: Michael Bloomberg. Burns Alexander. "Michael Bloomberg Joins 2020 Democratic Field for President." *The New York Times*. 24 Nov. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/24/us/politics/michael-bloomberg-2020-presidency.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁰ Song by Ali Dineen

²⁹¹ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

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BALLADEER: 28 so far!²⁹²

SKEPTIC: And how many of them are New York Mayors?

BALLADEER: Thankfully, only two.²⁹³

SKEPTIC: Oy vey, I can't keep track of all of them.

BALLADEER: Now don't you worry, friend. I've got just the song to job your memory.

♪ BALLADEER ♪

Former Alaska Senator, Mike Gravel²⁹⁴

California Congressperson, Eric Swalwell²⁹⁵

Massachussetts Congressman, Seth Moulton!²⁹⁶

Governor of Washington State, Jay Inslee!²⁹⁷

And Former Colorado Govna John Hickenlooper²⁹⁸

New York City Mayor [fart noise] Bill De Blasio²⁹⁹

New York Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand³⁰⁰

Miramar Florida Mayor Wayne Messam!³⁰¹

Or anybody, yes anybody
Just anybody who can beat
The 45th to take the seat
Our P-O-T-U-S, Donald Trump!³⁰²

²⁹² Burns, Alexander, Matt Flegenheimer, Jasmine C. Lee, Lisa Lerer and Jonathan Martin. "Who's Running for President in 2020?" *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/us/politics/2020-presidential-candidates.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹³ Ibid.

²⁹⁴ The Gravel Institute. "Rock 2.0 - Mike Gravel 2020." *Youtube*. 8 Apr. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0770rsZlaFc>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁵ Richardson, Ian. "Eric Swalwell, congressman from California, joins crowded 2020 Democratic presidential field." *USA Today*. 8 Apr. 2019. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2019/04/08/eric-swalwell-2020-campaign-president/3404329002/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁶ Gambino, Lauren. "Seth Moulton: Democratic congressman enters crowded 2020 presidential race." *The Guardian*. 22 Apr. 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/apr/22/seth-moulton-democratic-congressman-enters-2020-race>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁷ CBS This Morning. "Jay Inslee 2020: Washington governor announces presidential bid." *Youtube*. 1 Mar. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btvm99wHRo>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁸ Golshan, Tara. "John Hickenlooper's 2020 presidential campaign and policy positions, explained." *Vox*. 26 Jun. 2019. <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/26/18715752/john-hickenlooper-2020-presidential-campaign-policies>. 16 Jun. 2020.

²⁹⁹ Bill de Blasio. "Working People First | Bill de Blasio 2020." *Youtube*. 16 May 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHDhsPyJzvK>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁰ Wade, Peter. "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand Calls for Bravery As She Officially Enters the 2020 Race." *Rolling Stone*. 17 Mar. 2019. <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/kirsten-gillibrand-presidential-announcement-809215/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰¹ CNN. "Florida Mayor Wayne Messam announces 2020 presidential bid." *Youtube*. 28 Mar. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qR15vLEM2M>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰² This is an opinion members of Theater in Asylum based on reporting, candidate statements, debate focus, and discussion amongst the general public during the primary process. Example: Sorkin, Amy Davidson. "Twenty Democrats Are Vying to Beat

SKEPTIC: Ok, I recognized some of those names, but mostly I had no idea who you were talking about.

BALLADEER: Well we're just getting started buddy! Sit down and get comfortable, there's 16 more!!

🎵 BALLADEER 🎵

Former PA Congressman, Joe Sestak!³⁰³
Self-help Guru, (woo!) Marianne Williamson!³⁰⁴
Montana Governor, Steve Bullock!
A democrat who comes from a state that voted for TRUMP³⁰⁵

Colorado Senator Michael Bennet³⁰⁶
Billionaire hedge fund executive³⁰⁷ Tom Steyer³⁰⁸
Former Maryland Congressman John Kevin Delaney³⁰⁹
Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan³¹⁰
And Hawaii's rep Tulsi Gabbard³¹¹

Or anybody, yes anybody
Just anybody who can beat
The 45th to take the seat

Trump. Can They Avoid Blowing It?" *The New Yorker*. 28 Apr. 2019.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/05/06/twenty-democrats-are-vying-to-beat-trump-can-they-avoid-blowing-it?source=serch_google_dsa_paid&qclid=Cj0KCQjwhZr1BRCLARIsALjRVQPsyUXgyFprDCzVivEzLAFmlMwCKiMDueZeM1ImM3Mqql-iOu3M-1oaAsw8EALw_wcB. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰³ Cole, John. "Sestak Running for President." *Politics PA*. 23 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.politicspa.com/sestak-running-for-president/91549/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁴ Hains, Tim. "Presidential Candidate Marianne Williamson Calls For 'Moral And Spiritual Awakening' In The U.S." *Real Clear Politics*. 31 Jan. 2019.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/01/31/presidential_candidate_marianne_williamson_calls_for_moral_awakening_in_the_us.html. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁵ Taylor, Jessica. "Montana Gov. Steve Bullock Announces 2020 Presidential Run." *NPR*. 14 May 2019.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/05/14/676605076/montana-gov-steve-bullock-announces-2020-presidential-run>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁶ Tillet, Emily. "Sen. Michael Bennet announces he's running for president in 2020." *CBS This Morning*. 2 May 2019.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/michael-bennet-2020-michael-bennet-running-for-president/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁷ Higgins, Tucker and Brian Schwartz. "Billionaire anti-Trump activist Tom Steyer enters 2020 race with pledge to spend \$100 million." *CNBC*. 9 Jul. 2019.

<https://www.cNBC.com/2019/07/09/tom-steyer-billionaire-pushing-to-impeach-trump-changes-mind-and-decides-to-run-for-president.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁸ Steyer, Tom. "Fundamental Change." *Youtube*. 9 Jul. 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0pFvLtryd0&feature=youtu.be>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³⁰⁹ Delaney, John. "Why I'm Running." *Youtube*. 28 Jul. 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCCzeFu-7Wq>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁰ C-SPAN. "Tim Ryan Presidential Campaign Announcement (C-SPAN)." *Youtube*. 8 Apr. 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDsW3DG1XFc>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹¹ Gabbard, Tulsi. "Tulsi Gabbard's Full Speech - Presidential Campaign Launch." *Tulsi Gabbard*. 2 Feb. 2019.

<https://www.tulsi2020.com/press/2019-02-02-tulsi-gabbards-full-speech-presidential-campaign-launch>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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Our P-O-T-U-S, Donald Trump!³¹²

SKEPTIC: Okay, okay, okay...are we almost there yet?

BALLADEER: Just about...well, sort of. There's just twelve more!

SKEPTIC: Jeez, can I get a beer or something after this?

♪ BALLADEER ♪

Former HUD secretary Julián Castro³¹³

Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar³¹⁴

Tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang

He's for universal income³¹⁵ so we'll all get our handout today!

New Jersey Senator Cory Booker³¹⁶

Former Texas Congressperson, Beto O'Rourke³¹⁷

South Bend Indiana Mayor, Pete Buttigieg³¹⁸

SKEPTIC [*impersonating BUTTIGIEG*]: It's time for a new generation of leadership³¹⁹

♪ BALLADEER ♪

That's what he says!

Or anybody, yes anybody

Just anybody who can beat

The 45th to take the seat

Our P-O-T-U-S, Donald Trump!³²⁰

³¹² See Note 302.

³¹³ Harris, Tim. "Julian Castro Officially Announces 2020 Presidential Bid." *Real Clear Politics*. 13 Jan. 2019.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/01/13/julian_castro_officially_announces_2020_presidential_bid.html. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁴ "Amy Klobuchar officially announces 2020 run." *CNN politics*.
<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2019/02/10/amy-klobuchar-announcement-president-2020-sot-vpx.cnn>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁵ Yang, Andrew. "Humanity First | Andrew Yang for President." *Youtube*. 2 Feb. 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhArPPmHjCs>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁶ USA Today. "Senator Cory Booker announces 2020 presidential campaign." *Youtube*. 1 Feb. 2019.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqpEzmU1B9M>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁷ Schwartz, Ian. "Beto O'Rourke Announces 2020 Presidential Run: We Are 'The Last Great Hope'." *Real Clear Politics*. 14 Mar. 2019.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/03/14/beto_orourke_announces_2020_presidential_run_we_are_the_last_great_hope.html. 16 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁸ "Pete Buttigieg: 'A New Generation of Leadership' | Campaign 2020." *The Washington Post*. 23 Jan. 2019.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/pete-buttigieg-a-new-generation-of-leadership--campaign-2020/2019/01/23/e2e70e54-9e36-4a04-a8c0-9a4a9acfe10c_video.html. 20 Jun. 2020.

³¹⁹ Quote: Pete Buttigieg "Pete Buttigieg: 'A New Generation of Leadership' | Campaign 2020." *The Washington Post*. 23 Jan. 2019.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/pete-buttigieg-a-new-generation-of-leadership--campaign-2020/2019/01/23/e2e70e54-9e36-4a04-a8c0-9a4a9acfe10c_video.html. 20 Jun. 2020.

³²⁰ See Note 302.

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BALLADEER: Ok, we're nearing the end of our song, and there's just six more candidates. Now who do we have left?

SKEPTIC: The Massachusetts guy?

BALLADEER: Deval Patrick!³²¹

SKEPTIC: And the New York guy?

BALLADEER: Michael Bloomberg!³²² Who else?

SKEPTIC: Agh, I don't know!

BALLADEER: Yes you do!

SKEPTIC: Do we even have to go through with this?

BALLADEER: What?! Of course we do!

♪ BALLADEER ♪

California Senator, Kamala Harris³²³

♪ SKEPTIC [*impersonating HARRIS*] ♪

"Prosecute the case against Donald Trump"³²⁴

♪ BALLADEER ♪

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren³²⁵

♪ SKEPTIC [*impersonating WARREN*] ♪

"What we need is Big Structural Change!"³²⁶

³²¹ "Deval Patrick announces Democratic presidential run | Campaign 2020." *The Washington Post*. 14 Nov. 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/campaign-ads-2020/deval-patrick-announces-democratic-presidential-run--campaign-2020/2019/11/14/5e2ffccf-35b3-4d89-ba7d-da301c345279_video.html. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²² Merica, Dan, Cristina Alesci and Jake Tapper. "Michael Bloomberg is the latest 2020 Democratic hopeful." *CNN politics*. 24 Nov. 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/24/politics/michael-bloomberg-2020-election/index.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²³ Harris, Kamala. "Kamala Harris: For the People." *Youtube*. 29 Jan. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls7OSwHMoBc>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²⁴ Baynes, Chris. "Kamala Harris promises to 'prosecute the case' against Trump in 2020 election bid." *Independent*. 20 Mar. 2019. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-election/kamala-harris-trump-2020-election-democrat-jimmy-kimmel-intervie-w-a8830996.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²⁵ CNN. "Elizabeth Warren announces 2020 bid for President." *Youtube*. 9 Feb. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azuSsFVGGd4>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²⁶ Warren, Elizabeth. "Elizabeth Warren on Confronting Corruption with Big, Structural Change." *Youtube*. 22 Sep. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xktCF1gBHKY>. 16 Jun. 2020.

♪ BALLADEER ♪

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders³²⁷

♪ SKEPTIC [*impersonating SANDERS*] ♪

“We need a Political Revolution!!”³²⁸

♪ BALLADEER ♪

And last but not least,

♪ SKEPTIC [*realizing who’s left*] ♪

The Roman Catholic from the northeast,³²⁹

♪ BALLADEER ♪

Who may just be the one who gets this poopy-head impeached³³⁰

♪ BALLADEER & SKEPTIC ♪

Joe Biden!³³¹

BALLADEER: Ok, now recap!

♪ SKEPTIC ♪

Mike Gravel

Eric Swallwell

Seth Moulton

Jay Inslee

John Hickenlooper

Bill De Blasio

Kirsten Gillibrand

Wayne Messam

Joe Sestak

Marianne Williamson

Steve Bullock

Michael Bennet

³²⁷ Sanders, Bernie. “I’m Running For President.” *Youtube*. 19 Feb. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7DRwz0cAt0>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²⁸ “Bernie Sanders calls for ‘political revolution’ at Chicago rally.” *NBC News*. 4 Mar. 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/video/bernie-sanders-calls-for-political-revolution-at-chicago-rally-1451635267996>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³²⁹ CNN Editorial Research. “Joe Biden Fast Facts.” *CNN politics*. 4 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/01/22/us/joe-biden-fast-facts/index.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³³⁰ Blake, Aaron. “The Bidens, Burisma and impeachment, explained.” *The Washington Post*. 27 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/25/hunter-biden-joe-biden-burisma-ukraine-impeachment/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

³³¹ Biden, Joe. “Joe Biden For President: America Is An Idea.” *Youtube*. 25 Apr. 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbOU2fTg6cl>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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Tom Steyer
John Delaney
Tim Ryan
Tulsi Gabbard
Julían Castro
Amy Klobuchar
Andrew Yang
Cory Booker
Beto O'Rourke
Pete Buttigieg
Deval Patrick
Michael Bloomberg
Kamala Harris
Elizabeth Warren
Bernie Sanders
Joe Biden!

Or please dear god, anybody, ANYBODY who can beat Donald Trump!
[SKEPTIC collapses with exhaustion]

BALLADEER: You've got it!

♪ BALLADEER & SKEPTIC ♪
Or anybody, yes anybody!
Is there anybody running who can win?

BALLADEER: Who knows!

♪ BALLADEER & SKEPTIC ♪
But anybody,
Please anybody!³³²
Who can oust this dictator, fascist piece of shit!³³³

³³² See Note 302.

³³³ This line was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

HORSE RACE #6³³⁴

ANNOUNCER: Woo! That's a lot of names. Welcome back to the race. [149] Now, the candidates are starting to drop like flies. Suspending their campaigns are.. December 1st, Joe Sestak.³³⁵

ANNOUNCER: [148] December 2nd, Steve Bullock.³³⁶

ANNOUNCER: [147] December 3rd, California Senator Kamala Harris.³³⁷

HARRIS: My campaign for president simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue³³⁸

ANNOUNCER: [132] And big news here. December 18th, one night before another debate and the US House of Representatives have voted to impeach the president. Voting along party lines, the House approved two articles of impeachment. The first being Abuse of Power and the second being Obstruction of Congress.³³⁹

ANNOUNCER: [131] But now let's turn to climate news as we head into another debate. With 131 days left until the New York primary,³⁴⁰ it's December 19th. Take it away.³⁴¹

CLIMATE CRISIS³⁴²

[MODERATOR should be played by a man in drag so that he can play a damsel trope in the end. JAY INSLEE should be played by a woman so that she can play the hunky savior.]

³³⁴ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

³³⁵ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

³³⁶ Ibid.

³³⁷ Ibid.

³³⁸ Quote: Kamala Harris. Harris, Kamala. "I am suspending my campaign today." *Medium*. 3 Dec. 2019.

<https://medium.com/@KamalaHarris/i-am-suspending-my-campaign-today-6dca8cefb252>. 14 Jun. 2020.

³³⁹ Fandos, Nicholas and Michael D. Shear. "Trump Impeached for Abuse of Power and Obstruction of Congress." *The New York Times*. 18 Dec. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/18/us/politics/trump-impeached.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁰ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

³⁴¹ Democratic Presidential Debate on December 19, 2019 in California, hosted by PBS NewsHour and POLITICO.

Video: "PBS NewsHour/POLITICO Democratic Debate." *PBS*. 19 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/pbs-newshourpolitico-democratic-debate-higwub/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: The Fix team. "Transcript: The December Democratic debate." *The Washington Post*. 20 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/12/20/transcript-december-democratic-debate/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

³⁴² Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

THE DEBATES 2020

MODERATOR: Welcome everyone to another Democratic debate. Tonight, we'll likely spend what feels like hours in a confusing back and forth about healthcare.³⁴³ Andrew Yang will almost definitely bring up Universal Basic Income.³⁴⁴ Candidates will insinuate that some on this stage are too old, or too young, to be president.³⁴⁵ But what I want to know is this. Which of you will fight hardest to protect our one, our only, magnificent and beautiful planet earth?³⁴⁶ Let's begin with the Green New Deal.

[sudden and loud angel choir]

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: Hi!

MODERATOR: Welcome to the stage.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: It's great to be here. I am the Green New Deal, a congressional resolution that lays out a ground plan for tackling climate change. Introduced by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, both Democrats, my proposal calls on the federal government to wean the United States from fossil fuels and curb planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions across the economy. I also aim to guarantee new high-paying jobs in clean energy industries.³⁴⁷

MODERATOR: That sounds nice, but I must ask. You're just a resolution, meaning none of your provisions would be binding, is that correct?³⁴⁸

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: *[after a pause]* That's correct.

MODERATOR: So even if Congress approves you, nothing would become actual, enforceable law....³⁴⁹

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: Well... no...

³⁴³ Kurtzleben, Danielle. "Democratic Debate Exposes Deep Divides Among Candidates Over Health Care." *NPR*. 13 Sep. 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/13/760364830/democratic-debate-exposes-deep-divides-among-candidates-over-health-care>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁴ Collins, Sean. "Andrew Yang's big debate surprise: give 10 people \$1,000 a month for a year." *Vox*. 12 Sep. 2019. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/12/20863107/andrew-yang-september-2019-democratic-debate-universal-basic-income-pilot-1000-month>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁵ Lerer, Lisa, and Denise Lu. "How Old Should a President Be? With So Many Choices, Democrats Are Sharply Divided." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/06/09/us/politics/2020-democratic-candidates-ages.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁶ @nationalparkservice. "The official Instagram for America's Best Idea!" Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/nationalparkservice/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁷ Quote: Friedman, Lisa. "What Is the Green New Deal? A Climate Proposal, Explained." *The New York Times*. 21 Feb. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/climate/green-new-deal-questions-answers.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁴⁸ Ibid.

³⁴⁹ Ibid.

THE DEBATES 2020

MODERATOR: Not one thing. Polluters can still pollute. Haters can still hate.³⁵⁰

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: Well....

MODERATOR *[getting worked up]*: So, and I'm sorry to be blunt, but what good are you? Why should we believe that you... *[in disgust]* you!... have the the power to save our one, our only, our magnificent and beautiful planet earth?

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: I don't know! *[Bursts into tears and quickly exits]*

[MODERATOR angrily sighs. Regains her composure.]

MODERATOR: And what about you all. What do you think about this *non-binding* agreement?! Vice President Biden??

BIDEN *[nervously]*: The Green New Deal is a crucial *framework* for meeting the climate challenges we face.³⁵¹

MODERATOR: Mr. "new-generation-of-leadership"³⁵² Pete Buttigieg. Do you support this "non-binding" Green New Deal?

BUTTIGIEG *[nervously]*: Yes, I think it's the right *beginning*.³⁵³

MODERATOR: Sure. Mr. Steyer? What do you and your billions³⁵⁴ have to say about this?

STEYER *[nervously]*: "What I see is people trying to move the ball *forward* in an important way."³⁵⁵

MODERATOR *[mocking the candidates]*: "A crucial framework." "It's the right beginning." "We're moving the ball forward." Ugh. Did you know that the United Nations Intergovernmental

³⁵⁰ Interpretation by members of Theater In Asylum.

³⁵¹ Quote: joe Biden.com. "CLIMATE: Joe's Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice." *Biden President*. <https://joe Biden.com/climate/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵² "Pete Buttigieg: 'A New Generation of Leadership' | Campaign 2020." *The Washington Post*. 23 Jan. 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/pete-buttigieg-a-new-generation-of-leadership--campaign-2020/2019/01/23/e2e70e54-9e36-4a04-a8c0-9a4a9acfe10c_video.html. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵³ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. "Buttigieg backs Green New Deal resolution." *CNN*. <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2019/02/10/sotu-buttigieg-gnd.cnn>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵⁴ Goldmacher, Shane. "2020 Candidates: Tom Steyer." *The New York Times*. 19 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/elections/tom-steyer.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵⁵ Quote: Tom Steyer. Bonn, Tess. "Steyer: Green New Deal helped 'move the ball forward' on climate change." *The Hill*. 28 Mar. 2019. <https://thehill.com/hilltv/rising/436326-steyer-green-new-deal-helped-move-ball-forward-on-climate-change>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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Panel on Climate Change³⁵⁶ has said we only have 12 years to get our act together to avoid ecological and humanitarian catastrophe?! And that was two years ago!³⁵⁷

Now, while total elimination of fossil fuels is what's needed, what about a more modest goal. Under each of your plans, when will the United States reach net-zero carbon emissions?

BIDEN: 2050.³⁵⁸

BUTTIGIEG: 2050³⁵⁹

KLOBUCHAR: Hi, uh, yes, I'm Amy Klobuchar here. 2050.³⁶⁰

STEYER: Myyy plan gets us there by 2045!³⁶¹

MODERATOR: And what about you two on the left? Senator Warren? Senator Sanders?

WARREN: 2030!³⁶²

SANDERS: My plan gets us not just to net-zero carbon emissions, but to complete decarbonization³⁶³ of our energy sector by 2050!³⁶⁴

MODERATOR: Cool. So under a Democratic Presidency, and with magical consent from a possibly-divided congress, we'll have net-zero carbon emissions in this country by somewhere between 2030 and 2050.

ALL: *[ad lib]* Right / yes / you bet.

³⁵⁶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵⁷ Watts, Jonathan. "We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN." *The Guardian*. 8 Oct. 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁵⁸ Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapittl, and Alyson Hurt. "Climate Issues: Where 2020 Democrats Stand On The Green New Deal And More." *NPR*. 11 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/11/758173003/climate-issues-where-2020-democrats-stand-on-the-green-new-deal-and-more>.

³⁵⁹ Ibid.

³⁶⁰ Ibid.

³⁶¹ Ibid.

³⁶² Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapittl, and Alyson Hurt. "Climate Issues: Where 2020 Democrats Stand On The Green New Deal And More." *NPR*. 11 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/11/758173003/climate-issues-where-2020-democrats-stand-on-the-green-new-deal-and-more>.

³⁶³ Levin, Kelly, Jiawei Song, and Jennifer Morgan. "COP21 Glossary of Terms Guiding the Long-term Emissions-Reduction Goal." *World Resources Institute*. 2 Dec. 2015.

<https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/cop21-glossary-terms-guiding-long-term-emissions-reduction-goal>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁶⁴ "Issues: The Green New Deal." *Bernie*. <https://berniesanders.com/issues/green-new-deal/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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MODERATOR: Now that would mean transforming our energy sector, utilities, and how we generate power.³⁶⁵ And what about paying for this massive transition? Are you actually willing to put your money where your mouth is and defend our magnificent planet earth? How much will your plans cost the federal government over the next ten years?

BIDEN: \$1.7 trillion dollars.³⁶⁶

STEYER: \$2 trillion dollars!³⁶⁷

BUTTIGIEG: Me too!³⁶⁸

KLOBUCHAR: Yes! \$2 trillion!³⁶⁹

WARREN: My plan would commit *three* trillion dollars.³⁷⁰

MODERATOR: Chump change. What about your plan Senator Sanders? What would your administration commit to climate policies over the next ten years?

SANDERS: *[Rolling up his sleeves, hoping to impress the Moderator with an Oprah moment]* \$16.3 trillion dollars!!!³⁷¹

BIDEN: Now wait one minute!³⁷²

SANDER: And with the private sector, our Green New Deal will spend *sixteen* trillion dollars and will pay for itself in 15 years.³⁷³ I have seven grandchildren, and I'm going to be damned if I'm going to leave them a planet that is unhealthy and uninhabitable.³⁷⁴

MODERATOR: Inhabitable? That's the bar y'all are trying to reach? Unbelievable! Don't you know how majestic I was— the planet was— before your trains and automobiles started smogging up the atmosphere?

³⁶⁵ Bade, Gavin. "The top 10 trends transforming the electric power sector." Utility Dive. 17 Sep. 2015.

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/the-top-10-trends-transforming-the-electric-power-sector/405798/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁶⁶ Kurtzleben, Danielle, Lexie Schapitt, and Alyson Hurt. "Climate Issues: Where 2020 Democrats Stand On The Green New Deal And More." *NPR*. 11 Sep. 2019.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/11/758173003/climate-issues-where-2020-democrats-stand-on-the-green-new-deal-and-more>.

³⁶⁷ Ibid.

³⁶⁸ Ibid.

³⁶⁹ Ibid.

³⁷⁰ Ibid.

³⁷¹ Ibid.

³⁷² Inspired by Biden critique of Sanders budgets. Example: Soergel, Andrew. "Biden Campaign Trashes Sanders Team's 'Fuzzy Accounting'." *U.S. News and World Report*. 25 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/elections/articles/2020-02-25/joe-bidens-campaign-trashes-fuzzy-accounting-in-bernie-sanders-funding-plan>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁷³ Information from: "Issues: The Green New Deal." *Bernie*. <https://berniesanders.com/issues/green-new-deal/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁷⁴ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Friedman, Lisa.

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[crickets]

MODERATOR: All right, back to arguing about how you're going to leave our great planet earth "inhabitable." How are you going to get this plan through a likely divided Congress?

[crickets]³⁷⁵

MODERATOR: Cool. And how are you going to get other countries on board, given that the US is only 15% of global emissions?³⁷⁶

[crickets]³⁷⁷

MODERATOR: Agh! I've had it with you. We need a real debate on the climate crisis so we, you, whoever, everyone! The American People! ...can elect a president who will fight to save our one and only, magnificent Planet Earth!

[BIG BANKS³⁷⁸ & THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY³⁷⁹ enter. THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY is high-pitched 1930's mobster. BIG BANKS is a slow-talking supervillain who strokes a piggy bank as if it's a cat.]

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: I don't think so!

MODERATOR: Ah! Who are you?!

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Who ever you want me to be, hot stuff.³⁸⁰

MODERATOR: Ugh, The Fossil Fuel Industry...

³⁷⁵ Members of Theater In Asylum were not able to find any evidence that candidates had discussed how to work with Republicans in congress to pass Climate Change legislation. This is a reflection of that.

³⁷⁶ "Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data." EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency. Data from 2014. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁷⁷ Members of Theater In Asylum were not able to find any evidence that candidates had discussed how to work with other countries to lower Global Emissions. This is a reflection of that.

³⁷⁸ Character inspired by articles such as: Simon, Morgan. "Climate Devastation Is Big Business For Big Banks." *Forbes*. 22 Apr. 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/morgansimon/2019/04/22/climate-devastation-is-big-business-for-big-banks/#4a4be29567dd>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁷⁹ Character inspired by articles such as: Banerjee, Neela, John H Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer, and Lisa Song. "CO2's Role in Global Warming Has Been on the Oil Industry's Radar Since the 1960s." *Inside Climate News*. 13 Apr. 2016. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/13042016/climate-change-global-warming-oil-industry-radar-1960s-exxon-api-co2-fossil-fuels>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁰ Dagon, Katie (Figures, Utsarga Adhikary). "Climate Change 2016: Make America Hot Again." *Science in the News Blog (SITN)*. Harvard University, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. 9 Aug. 2016. <http://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2016/climate-change-2016-make-america-hot/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Ohhh, you rememba' me? Do I linger in your heart like plastic in the ocean?³⁸¹

MODERATOR: Leave me alone.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: I know I make your iceberg of a heart melt.³⁸²

MODERATOR: Go to hell!

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Oo! Spicy. You really are heatin' up.³⁸³

BIG BANKS: Back to the task at hand, Fossil Fuel.

MODERATOR: Who are you?

BIG BANKS: Who me?

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: He's the Big Banks, but I'm the one your seas are risin' for.³⁸⁴

MODERATOR: Big Banks?

BIG BANKS: Yesssss. And we're here to expose you.

MODERATOR: Expose me?

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah, yeah, that's right. We're gonna expose you!

MODERATOR: I don't know what you're talking about.

BIG BANKS: I think you do. We know who you are.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah, yeah! You're not the news. You're FAKE news.

MODERATOR: I assure you, I'm very real.

³⁸¹ National Ocean Service. "A Guide to Plastic in the Ocean." *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce*. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marinedebris/plastics-in-the-ocean.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸² Glick, Daniel. "The Big Thaw." *National Geographic*. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/big-thaw/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸³ "Climate Change: How Do We Know?" *NASA Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet*. <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁴ "As Seas Rise, NASA Zeros In: How Much? How Fast?" *NASA*. <https://www.nasa.gov/goddard/risingseas>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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BIG BANKS: You're destabilizing the markets, peddling stories about a climate "crisis."³⁸⁵

MODERATOR: It is a crisis!³⁸⁶

BIG BANKS: And we just can't allow this to continue... Earth.

[Gasps all around]

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: BOOOOM! You're the Earth! We know it! We EXPOSED you! Hahaha, you thought you could fool the American People, dressing up a debate moderator and giving us nothing but, but, but... spin.

EARTH: I've been spinning for billions of years!³⁸⁷

BIG BANKS: That ends today.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Sixth extinction, here we come!³⁸⁸

EARTH: Wait, please!

BIG BANKS: Silence.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah, shut the frack up!³⁸⁹

BIG BANKS: You too.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Sorry.

BIG BANKS: Well lucky for us, The DNC–

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: That's the Democratic National Committee!

BIG BANKS: Yes. The DNC has agreed to put an end to this silly talk.

³⁸⁵ Line inspired by Climate Change deniers. Example: Bokak-Lindell, Spencer. "So You Want to Convince a Climate Change Skeptic." *The New York Times*. 2 Jan. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/02/opinion/climate-change-deniers.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁶ Harvey, Fiona. "World has six months to avert climate crisis, says energy expert." *The Guardian*. 18 Jun. 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/world-has-six-months-to-avert-climate-crisis-says-energy-expert>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁷ Redd, Nola Taylor. "How Old Is Earth?" *Space.com*. 7 Feb. 2019. <https://www.space.com/24854-how-old-is-earth.html>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁸ Gibbons, Ann. "Are We in the Middle of a Sixth Mass Extinction?" *American Association for the Advancement of Science*. 2 Mar. 2011. <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2011/03/are-we-middle-sixth-mass-extinction>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁸⁹ "What is fracking and why is it controversial?" *BBC*. 15 Oct. 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-14432401>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah! Come on, DNC, tell ‘em!

BIG BANKS: Yesssss, tell them what you told Inslee.³⁹⁰

EARTH: Jay Inslee? My sweet Jay Jay?

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah, yeah. Ya’ tree huggin’, solar panel pitchin’, wind turbine totin’, eco... chump! JAaaaay Innnnslee.³⁹¹

BIG BANKS: Go on, DNC.

THE DNC [*with great shame*]: While climate change is at the top of our list, the DNC will not be holding entire debates on a single issue area because we want to make sure voters have the ability to hear from candidates on dozens of issues of importance to American voters.³⁹²

EARTH: No...

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: You heard it! No climate debate for you! You’ll just have to go back to debatin’ healthcare. Forever!

EARTH: Nooooooooo!!!!!!! [*All the candidates scream*]

JAY INSLEE: Not if I have anything to do about it!

CANDIDATES: [*gasp*] Jay Inslee?

JAY INSLEE: That’s right! Today the United States and the world stand at a crossroads unlike any that we have encountered before. Within the next decade, either inaction will set in motion a worsening global climate crisis that will lead to devastation, or our nation and the world will respond to build a modern, green and more just global economic future.³⁹³

EARTH: My hero!

³⁹⁰ Resnick, Gideon. “Jay Inslee Says DNC Denied His Request for a Climate Debate.” *Daily Beast*. 5 Jun. 2019.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/jay-inslee-says-dnc-denied-his-request-for-a-climate-debate?ref=scroll>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹¹ Lavelle, Mariane. “Jay Inslee on Climate Change: Where the Candidate Stands.” *Inside Climate News*. 21 Aug. 2019.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062019/jay-inslee-climate-change-global-warming-election-2020-candidate-profile>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹² Quote: DNC Spokeswoman, Xochitl Hinojosa. Axelrod, Tal. “DNC tells Inslee it won’t host climate debate.” *The Hill*. 5 Jun. 2019.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/447192-dnc-tells-inslee-it-wont-host-climate-debate>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹³ Quote: “Global Climate Mobilization.” *Jay Inslee for Governor*. <https://www.jayinslee.com/issues/global-climate>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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JAY INSLEE: “The DNC is silencing the voices of Democratic activists, many of our progressive partner organizations, and nearly half of the Democratic presidential field who want to debate the existential crisis of our time.”³⁹⁴

BIG BANKS: Are you quite finished?

JAY INSLEE: We want a debate focused solely on our climate crisis!

BIG BANKS: DNC, finish your statement.

THE DNC [*With great shame*]: If any candidate does participate in such a debate hosted by another organization, that candidate will be *disqualified* from all future DNC debates.³⁹⁵

EARTH: Noooooooooo!

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Disqualified like the DINOSWAURS!!³⁹⁶

JAY INSLEE: The American people, and the candidates for that matter, will stand with us. The climate crisis merits a full discussion of our plans, not a short exchange of talking points.

BIG BANKS: We’ll see about that.

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Yeah! Cue talkin’ points. Bernie-Karl-Marx-Sanders, you’re up!

SANDERS: We're facing the great existential crisis of our time.³⁹⁷

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY [*mispronouncing*]: Maya’ Pete Butt-judge!

BIG BANKS: It’s Buttigieg...

BUTTIGIEG: Climate catastrophe is on the horizon, and history will judge us for how we rise to meet this challenge.³⁹⁸

³⁹⁴ Quote: Jay Inslee. Axelrod, Tal. “DNC tells Inslee it won’t host climate debate.” *The Hill*. 5 Jun. 2019.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/447192-dnc-tells-inslee-it-wont-host-climate-debate>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹⁵ Perez, Tom. “Climate Change and the 2020 Debates.” *Medium*. 11 Jun. 2019.

<https://medium.com/@TomPerezforDNC/on-debates-3f6956696e7e>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹⁶ This is an opinion of members of Theater In Asylum. We believe Dinosaurs would not qualify for the DNC sponsored debates.

They are, however, extinct. See: Jaggard, Victoria. “Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?” *National Geographic*.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/dinosaur-extinction/>. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹⁷ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Schwartz, Ian. “Bernie Sanders: Democrats Will Lose Election If “Consumed” By President Trump.” *Real Clear Politics*. 20 Nov. 2019.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/11/20/bernie_sanders_democrats_will_lose_election_if_consumed_by_president_trump.html. 18 Jun. 2020.

³⁹⁸ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. Hutzler, Alexandra. “CNN Climate Change Town Hall with 2020 Democrats: How To Watch, Start Time, Lineup.” *Newsweek*. 4 Sep. 2019. <https://www.newsweek.com/cnn-climate-town-hall-how-watch-lineup-1457688>. 18 Jun. 2020.

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BIG BANKS: And Mr. Biden, what about you?

BIDEN: I know there is no greater challenge facing our country and our world.³⁹⁹

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Except ya' face!

BIG BANKS: Oh please. This is why people find you so unpalatable. Ms. Warren, would you like to add a platitude?

WARREN: Look, we need to work on every front on climate change. It is the threat to every living thing on this planet and we are running out of time.⁴⁰⁰

BIG BANKS: Very nice. Now, Earth, Mr. Inslee. The candidates positions are clear. So why don't you run along. There's nothing more to see here.

EARTH *[To JAY INSLEE]*: What are we going to do?

THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY: Awww, don't cry. Ya' ocean risin' already!

JAY INSLEE: Don't worry, Earth. I'm sure whoever wins the nomination will stand up to the DNC, to the big banks, to the fossil fuel industry, to everyone, and defend you.

EARTH: I hope so.⁴⁰¹

[BIG BANKS & FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY cackle villainously.]

HORSE RACE #7⁴⁰²

ANNOUNCER: Ominous... Well, back to the race. It's January 2020 and we have three more candidates suspending their campaigns this month. [117] January 2nd, say goodbye to Julián Castro.⁴⁰³

³⁹⁹ Quote: Joe Biden. Irfan, Umair, and David Roberts. "How climate change ranks as a priority for 2020 Democratic presidential contenders." *Vox*. 19 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/10/14/20880675/2020-democratic-debates-climate-change-priorities>. 18 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁰ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. Howard, Hope. "2020 candidates give more attention to climate change than in past elections." *ABC News*. 10 Oct. 2019.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/2020-candidates-give-attention-climate-change-elections-past/story?id=66184179>. 18 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰¹ Extinction Rebellion. <https://rebellion.earth>. 18 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰² Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁴⁰³ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020), https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020. 14 Jun. 2020.

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CASTRO: With only a month until the Iowa Caucuses, and given the circumstances of this campaign season, I've determined that it simply isn't our time.⁴⁰⁴

ANNOUNCER: [109] January 10th, it's Marianne Williamson.⁴⁰⁵

WILLIAMSON: Things are changing swiftly and dramatically in this country, and I have faith that something is awakening among us. A politics of conscience is still yet possible. And yes ... love will prevail.⁴⁰⁶

ANNOUNCER: [106] January 13th, say goodbye to Cory Booker.⁴⁰⁷

BOOKER: To my team, supporters, and everyone who gave me a shot—thank you. I am so proud of what we built, and I feel nothing but faith in what we can accomplish together.⁴⁰⁸

ANNOUNCER: [105] And now, with 105 days to the new york primary,⁴⁰⁹ it's time for another debate,⁴¹⁰ where a rare scuffle on the party's left flank is heating up. Let's see.

ELIZABETH / BERNIE⁴¹¹

MODERATOR: Let's now turn to an issue that's come up in the last 48 hours, Senator Sanders. CNN reported yesterday that Senator Warren confirmed in a statement that in 2018, you told

⁴⁰⁴ Quote: Julián Castro. @JulianCastro. "It's with profound gratitude to all of our supporters that I suspend my campaign for president today. I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished together. I'm going to keep fighting for an America where everyone counts—I hope you'll join me in that fight." *Twitter*. 2 Jan. 2020. 9:12 a.m.

<https://twitter.com/JulianCastro/status/1212738343588511747>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁵ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020), https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁶ Quote: Marianne Williamson. Stewart, Briana. "Marianne Williamson announces she is suspending her presidential campaign." *abc NEWS*. 10 Jan. 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/marianne-williamson-announces-suspending-presidential-campaign/story?id=67499110>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁷ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020), https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁸ Quote: Cory Booker. @CoryBooker. "It's with a full heart that I share this news—I'm suspending my campaign for president. To my team, supporters, and everyone who gave me a shot—thank you. I am so proud of what we built, and I feel nothing but faith in what we can accomplish together." *Twitter*. 13 Jan. 2020. 11:00 a.m. <https://twitter.com/CoryBooker/status/1216751780345864193>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁰⁹ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>.

⁴¹⁰ Democratic Presidential Debate on January 15, 2020 in Iowa, hosted by CNN and Des Moines Register.

Video: Ryan, Erika. "Watch the full CNN/Des Moines Register Democratic debate." *CNN*. 15 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/app-news-section/watch-full-cnn-des-moines-register-democratic-debate/index.html> 16 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "Read the full transcript of Tuesday night's CNN/Des Moines Register debate." *Des Moines Register*. 14 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2020/01/14/democratic-debate-transcript-what-the-candidate-said-quotes/4460789002/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴¹¹ This text in this scene comes from the debate on January 15, 2020.

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her that you did not believe that a woman could win the election. Why did you say that?⁴¹²

SANDERS: Well, as a matter of fact, I didn't say it, and I don't want to waste a whole lot of time on this, because this is what Donald Trump and maybe some of the media want. Anybody that knows me knows that it's incomprehensible that I would think that a woman could not be President of the United States. Go to YouTube today. There's a video of me 30 years ago, talking about how a woman could become President of the United States.

In 2015, I deferred, in fact, to Senator Warren. There was a movement to draft Senator Warren to run for President, and you know what? I stayed back. Senator Warren decided not to run, and I did run afterwards.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by three million votes. How could anybody in a million years not believe that a woman could become President of the United States? Let me be very clear. If any of the women on this stage or any of the men on this stage win the nomination ... I hope that's not the case. I hope it's me. But if they do, I will do everything in my power to make sure that they are elected in order to defeat the most dangerous President in the history of our country.⁴¹³

MODERATOR: So Senator Sanders, I do want to be clear here. You're saying that you never told Senator Warren that a woman could not win the election?⁴¹⁴

SANDERS: That is correct.⁴¹⁵

MODERATOR: Senator Warren, what did you think when Senator Sanders told you a woman could not win the election?⁴¹⁶

WARREN: I disagreed. Bernie is my friend, and I am not here to try to fight with Bernie. But look. This question about whether or not a woman can be President has been raised, and it's time for us to attack it head-on. I think the best way to talk about who can win is by looking at people's winning record.

So can a woman beat Donald Trump? Look at the men on this stage. Collectively, they have lost ten elections. The only people on this stage who have won every single election that they've been in are the women.^{417/418} The only person on this stage who has beaten an incumbent Republican anytime in the past 30 years is me, and here's what I know.

⁴¹² Quote: Abby Phillip. "Read the full transcript of Tuesday night's CNN/Des Moines Register debate." *Des Moines Register*. 14 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2020/01/14/democratic-debate-transcript-what-the-candidates-said-quotes/4460789002/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴¹³ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Ibid.

⁴¹⁴ Quote: Abby Phillip. Ibid.

⁴¹⁵ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Ibid.

⁴¹⁶ Quote: Abby Phillip. Ibid.

⁴¹⁷ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. Ibid.

⁴¹⁸ Internal cut of an aside between Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren.

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The real danger that we face as Democrats is picking a candidate who can't pull our party together or someone who takes for granted big parts of the Democratic constituency. We need a candidate who will excite all parts of the Democratic Party, bring everyone in, and give everyone a Democrat to believe in. That's ma' plan, and *that* is why I'm going to win.⁴¹⁹

HORSE RACE #8⁴²⁰

ANNOUNCER: Welcome back. There are now 12 candidates left in the race. Leading in a recent Iowa poll of likely voters is Bernie Sanders at 30%, followed by Joe Biden at 21%, Amy Klobuchar at 13%, Elizabeth Warren at 11% Pete Buttigieg at 10%.⁴²¹

[98] It's January 21 and the US has reported its first case of the new Coronavirus. The patient is hospitalized in Washington State.⁴²²

ANNOUNCER: [89] It's January 30th and the World Health Organization has declared a global emergency in response to growing Coronavirus infections in multiple countries.⁴²³

ANNOUNCER: [88] It's January 31st and with just days to go before the Iowa Caucus, John Delaney is suspending his campaign. Mr. Delaney was the first major candidate to enter the race, beginning his campaign back in August 2017.⁴²⁴

DELANEY: I've wanted this campaign to be constructive and productive the whole time, and it felt like when I knew that I didn't have enough support to reach viability in a meaningful way, but I had enough support to pull off from other candidates, I said, well, that's not very productive.⁴²⁵

⁴¹⁹ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. "Read the full transcript of Tuesday night's CNN/Des Moines Register debate." *Des Moines Register*. 14 Jan. 2020.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2020/01/14/democratic-debate-transcript-what-the-candidates-said-quotes/4460789002/>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁰ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁴²¹ Because of when this data was collected this line should fall after the following one on January 21, 2020, but for theatrical reasons members of Theater in Asylum wanted to keep the Coronavirus lines together. "Iowa 2020: Sanders Solidifies Frontrunner Status in Iowa While Klobuchar Nears Viability." Emerson College Polling. 23-26 Jan. 2020.

<https://emersonpolling.reportablenews.com/pr/iowa-2020-sanders-solidifies-frontrunner-status-in-iowa-while-klobuchar-nears-viability>. 16 Jun. 2020

⁴²² CDC Newsroom. "First Travel-related Case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Detected in United States." *Center for Disease Control and Prevention*. 21 Jan. 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0121-novel-coronavirus-travel-case.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²³ Taylor, Derrick Bryson. "How the Coronavirus Pandemic Unfolded: a Timeline." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁴ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁵ Quote: John Delaney. Astor, Maggie. "John Delaney Ends Presidential Campaign After Two and a Half Years." *The New York Times*. 31 Jan. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/31/us/politics/john-delaney-drops-out.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [85] And now, it's February 3 and it's time for the Iowa Caucuses!⁴²⁶ Across the state, Iowans are gathering to make their voices heard. Now we should be getting the results any minute now... Any minute now... Any...

Wait, what's that? My friends we are receiving reports of massive app errors in the counting of Iowa votes.⁴²⁷ We go now to spokeswoman of the Iowa Democratic Party, Mandy McClure.

MCCLURE: We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results. This was simply a reporting issue, the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion.⁴²⁸

ANNOUNCER: That's... reassuring? Well, while we wait for the results [83] it's February 5 and we can report the president's Impeachment trial has come to an end. Voting on party lines, the Senate has voted to acquit the president of all charges.⁴²⁹

ANNOUNCER: [82] And better late than never, it's February 7 and with 100% of precincts reporting, Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg are in a virtual tie for the Iowa Caucus, each with 26% of the vote. Elizabeth Warren won 18% of the vote, and in a disappointing fourth place, former vice president Joe Biden captured 16% of the vote.⁴³⁰

ANNOUNCER: With Biden falling behind and just days before the New Hampshire primary it's time for another debate.⁴³¹

BIDEN: I took a hit in Iowa and I'll probably take a hit here.^{432/433} But no matter what, I'm still in this for the same reason, we have to restore the soul of this country, bring back the middle class and make sure we bring people together.⁴³⁴

⁴²⁶ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁷ Corasaniti, Nick, Sheera Frenkel, Nicole Perloth. "App Used to Tabulate Votes Is Said to Have Been Inadequately Tested." *The New York Times*. 3 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/us/politics/iowa-caucus-app.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁸ Quote: Mandy McClure. Corasaniti, Nick, Sheera Frenkel, Nicole Perloth. "App Used to Tabulate Votes Is Said to Have Been Inadequately Tested." *The New York Times*. 3 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/us/politics/iowa-caucus-app.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴²⁹ Cheney, Kyle, Andrew Desiderio, and John Bresnahan. "Trump acquitted on impeachment charges, ending gravest threat to his presidency." *POLITICO*. 20 Feb. 2020. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/02/05/trump-impeachment-vote-110805>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³⁰ Merica, Dan, Jeff Zeleny, and Adam Levy. "Pete Buttigieg keeps narrow lead in Iowa caucuses with 100% of precincts reporting." *CNN politics*. 7 Feb. 2020. <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/06/politics/iowa-caucus-results/index.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³¹ Democratic Presidential Debate on February 7, 2020 in New Hampshire, hosted by ABC News.. Video: "2020 Democratic presidential debate: Part 1." *WMUR* 9. 7 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.wmur.com/article/video-2020-democratic-presidential-debate-part-1/30819551>. 16 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "New Hampshire Democratic Debate Transcript." Rev. 7 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/new-hampshire-democratic-debate-transcript>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴³² Quote: Joe Biden. "New Hampshire Democratic Debate Transcript." Rev. 7 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/new-hampshire-democratic-debate-transcript>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴³³ An internal cut was made to the quote here.

⁴³⁴ Quote: Joe Biden. "New Hampshire Democratic Debate Transcript." Rev. 7 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/new-hampshire-democratic-debate-transcript>. 16 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [77] It's February 11 and the disease caused by the Coronavirus has now been named CoViD-19. Cases continue to climb around the world.⁴³⁵

But back to the race, we can report that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has won the New Hampshire primary.⁴³⁶

BERNIE SANDERS: This is a movement from coast to coast, which is demanding that we finally have an economy, and a government that works for all of us -- not wealthy campaign contributors.⁴³⁷

ANNOUNCER: And the same night, we have two candidates dropping out. Say goodbye to Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang.⁴³⁸

ANDREW YANG: Being your candidate has been the privilege of my life. Together we will continue to do the work and move this country forward, because the Yang Gang isn't going anywhere.⁴³⁹

ANNOUNCER: [76] The very next day, say goodbye to former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick.⁴⁴⁰

DEVAL PATRICK: Many in the media have noted that I entered the race 'late.' As a direct and limiting consequence, I've met many people on the campaign trail who lament how they wished I had entered the race sooner. As I hope you know, I entered this race when I could, and not a moment before I should have.⁴⁴¹

ANNOUNCER: [69] Now, it's February 19 and with 69 days to the NY Primary,⁴⁴² it's time for another debate, the first with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.⁴⁴³

⁴³⁵ Taylor, Derrick Bryson. "How the Coronavirus Pandemic Unfolded: a Timeline." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³⁶ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³⁷ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Reston, Maeve. "Bernie Sanders wins New Hampshire primary as race shifts to Nevada and South Carolina." *CNN politics*. 12 Feb. 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/11/politics/democratic-primary-new-hampshire/index.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴³⁹ Quote: Andrew Yang. Dzhanova, Yelena, Mike Calia. "Democrat Andrew Yang drops out of the 2020 presidential race." *CNBC*. 11 Feb. 2020. <https://www.cNBC.com/2020/02/11/andrew-yang-drops-out-of-the-2020-presidential-race.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴⁰ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴¹ Quote: Deval Patrick. Saul, Stephanie, and Maggie Astor. "Deval Patrick, Latecomer to the 2020 Race, Drops Out." *The New York Times*. 12 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/12/us/politics/deval-patrick-drops-out.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴² The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴³ Democratic Presidential Debate on February 19, 2020 in Nevada, hosted by NBC News and MSNBC.

Video: "Watch the full NBC News/MSNBC Democratic Debate in Las Vegas." *NBC News*. 20 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/video/watch-the-full-nbc-news-msnbc-democratic-debate-in-las-vegas-79092293857>. 14 Jun. 2020.

ELIZABETH / MIKE⁴⁴⁴

MODERATOR: Senator Sanders, the first question to you. Mayor Bloomberg is pitching himself as a centrist who says he's best positioned to win in November. Why is your revolution a better bet?⁴⁴⁵

SANDERS: In order to beat Donald Trump, we're going to need the largest voter turnout in the history of the United States. Mr. Bloomberg had policies in New York City of stop and frisk which went after African-American and Latino people in an outrageous way. That is not a way you're going to grow voter turnout.⁴⁴⁶

MODERATOR: Mayor Bloomberg, can Senator Sanders beat President Trump?⁴⁴⁷

BLOOMBERG: I don't think there's any chance of the senator beating President Trump. You don't start out by saying I've got 160 million people I'm going to take away the insurance plan that they love. That's just not a way that you go and start building the coalition that the Sanders camp thinks that they can do. I don't think there's any chance whatsoever. And if he goes and is the candidate, we will have Donald Trump for another four years. And we can't stand that.⁴⁴⁸

MODERATOR: Senator Warren?⁴⁴⁹

WARREN: So I'd like to talk about who we're running against, a billionaire who calls women "fat broads" and "horse-faced lesbians." And, no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump. I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg.

Democrats are not going to win if we have a nominee who has a history of hiding his tax returns, of harassing women, and of supporting racist policies like redlining and stop and frisk. Look, I'll support whoever the Democratic nominee is. But understand this: Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another.

Transcript: "Full transcript: Ninth Democratic debate in Las Vegas." *NBC News*. 20 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/full-transcript-ninth-democratic-debate-las-vegas-n1139546>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴⁴ This text in this scene comes from the debate on February 19, 2020. Internal cuts were made by members of Theater In Asylum to shorten the scene while still keeping the integrity of the lines.

⁴⁴⁵ Quote: Lester Holt. "Full transcript: Ninth Democratic debate in Las Vegas." *NBC News*. 20 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/full-transcript-ninth-democratic-debate-las-vegas-n1139546>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁴⁶ Quote: Bernie Sanders.

⁴⁴⁷ Quote: Lester Holt. *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁸ Quote: Michael Bloomberg. *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁹ Quote: Lester Holt. *Ibid.*

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This country has worked for the rich for a long time and left everyone else in the dirt. It is time to have a president who will be on the side of working families and be willing to get out there and fight for them. That is why I am in this race, and that is how I will beat Donald Trump.⁴⁵⁰

HORSE RACE #9⁴⁵¹

ANNOUNCER: [66] And we're back. Big news everyone. It's February 22⁴⁵² and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has won the Nevada caucus.⁴⁵³

BERNIE SANDERS: We have just put together a multigenerational, multiracial coalition, which is not only going to win in Nevada it's going to sweep the country!⁴⁵⁴

ANNOUNCER: [65] Who would have thought a septuagenarian socialist, who just months ago had a heart attack would be such a competitive racer.⁴⁵⁵

In international news, we'd like to report that Italy is reporting a surge in coronavirus infections, stressing their health system.⁴⁵⁶

ANNOUNCER: [63] But today is February 25. There are 63 days to the New York Primary, the candidates are coming around the bend, and it's time for another debate.⁴⁵⁷

MIKE BLOOMBERG: And one of the great problems today, you read about the virus, what's really happening here is the president fired the pandemic specialist in this country two years ago.⁴⁵⁸

⁴⁵⁰ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. Ibid.

⁴⁵¹ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁴⁵² Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵³ "Nevada Caucuses 2020: Live Election Results." *The New York Times*. 24 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/02/22/us/elections/results-nevada-caucus.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵⁴ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Martin, Jonathan and Alexander Burns. "Bernie Sanders Wins Nevada Caucuses, Strengthening His Primary Lead." *The New York Times*. 22 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/22/us/politics/bernie-sanders-nevada-caucus.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵⁵ Ember, Sydney. Bernie Sanders Had Heart Attack, His Doctors Say as He Leaves Hospital." *The New York Times*. 8 Oct. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/04/us/politics/bernie-sanders-hospital.html>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵⁶ Taylor, Derrick Bryson. "How the Coronavirus Pandemic Unfolded: a Timeline." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵⁷ Democratic Presidential Debate on February 25, 2020 in South Carolina, hosted by CBS News, Congressional Black Caucus Institute and Twitter.

Video: "CBS Hosts Democratic Presidential Debate in South Carolina." *C-SPAN*. 25 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?469516-1/cbs-hosts-democratic-presidential-debate-south-carolina>. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "Read the full transcript of the South Carolina Democratic debate." *CBS News*. 25 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/south-carolina-democratic-debate-full-transcript-text/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁵⁸ Quote: Mike Bloomberg. "Read the full transcript of the South Carolina Democratic debate." *CBS News*. 25 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/south-carolina-democratic-debate-full-transcript-text/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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PETE BUTTIGIEG: If you're watching right now and you support my campaign, go to PeteForAmerica.com and chip in. And if you're watching right now and you're a billionaire, I *will* raise your taxes.⁴⁵⁹

AMY KLOBUCHAR: This is so serious. I'm not going to give *my* website right now. I'm going to give the *CDC's* website, which is cdc.gov, so that people keep checking in and they follow the rules and they realize what they have to do if they feel sick and they call their health care provider. Because many doctors are saying it's just a matter of time before we're going to start seeing this here.⁴⁶⁰

MODERATOR: Mr. Biden, will you continue if you do not win South Carolina? You have said that South Carolina will determine the outcome of this presidential race. If you don't win South Carolina, will you continue in this race?⁴⁶¹

JOE BIDEN: I *will* win South Carolina.⁴⁶²

ANNOUNCER: [59] You heard it folks. Biden says he *will* win South Carolina. And here we are. Happy Leap Day everyone, it's February 29th and we have momentous news. The long-alleged frontrunner in the race, Vice President Joe Biden, *has* won South Carolina, his first primary.^{463/464}

JOE BIDEN: Just days ago, the press and the pundits declared this candidacy dead. Now, thanks to all of you, the heart of the Democratic Party, we just won, and we've won big because of you. And we are very much alive.⁴⁶⁵

ANNOUNCER: The finish line is in sight and the moderate wing of the party is beginning to coalesce.... Tom Steyer is announcing he is suspending his campaign.⁴⁶⁶

TOM STEYER: Honestly I can't see a path where I can win the presidency.⁴⁶⁷

⁴⁵⁹ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. Ibid.

⁴⁶⁰ Quote: Amy Klobuchar. Ibid.

⁴⁶¹ Quote: Gayle King. Ibid.

⁴⁶² Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁴⁶³ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶⁴ Caputo, Marc. "Biden romps to victory in South Carolina." *POLITICO*. 29 Feb. 2020. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/02/29/south-carolina-primary-joe-biden-118348>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶⁵ Quote: Joe Biden. "Joe Biden Victory Speech Transcript: Biden Wins South Carolina Democratic Primary" *Rev Transcripts*. 29 Feb. 2020. <https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/joe-biden-victory-speech-transcript-biden-wins-south-carolina-democratic-primary>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶⁶ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶⁷ Quote: Tom Steyer. Edelman, Adam, Allan Smith, and Jordan Jackson. "Billionaire Tom Steyer quits Democratic primary race." *NBC News*. 29 Feb. 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/billionaire-tom-steyer-quits-democratic-primary-race-n1146286>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [58] It's March 1st, our youngest stallion, and the first openly-gay person to run for President, is dropping out. Say goodbye to Pete Buttigieg.⁴⁶⁸

PETE BUTTIGIEG: Tonight I am making the difficult decision to suspend my campaign for the presidency. Our goal has always been to help unify Americans to defeat Donald Trump and to win the era for our values.⁴⁶⁹

ANNOUNCER: [57] March 2nd, say goodbye to Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar.⁴⁷⁰

AMY KLOBUCHAR: Today I am ending my campaign and endorsing Joe Biden for president. He can bring our country together and build that coalition of our fired-up Democratic base as well as independents and moderate Republicans. We do not in our party want to just eke by a victory. We want to win big.⁴⁷¹

ANNOUNCER: And we can report that this same night, Pete Buttigieg is making an endorsement.

PETE BUTTIGIEG: I am delighted to endorse and support Joe Biden for President.⁴⁷²

[drumroll]

ANNOUNCER: All right, here we go. March 3, 2020, it's Super Tuesday!⁴⁷³ Let's rapid fire this. In order of delegate load, smallest to largest...

ANNOUNCER: American Samoa goes to...

BLOOMBERG: Mike Bloomberg!⁴⁷⁴

ANNOUNCER: Vermont...

⁴⁶⁸ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁶⁹ Quote: Pete Buttigieg. Epstein, Reid J, and Trip Gabriel. "Pete Buttigieg Drops Out of Democratic Presidential Race." *The New York Times*. 1 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/01/us/politics/pete-buttigieg-drops-out.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷⁰ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷¹ Quote: Amy Klobuchar. Corasaniti, Nick, and Alexander Burns. "Amy Klobuchar Drops Out of Presidential Race and Endorses Biden." *The New York Times*. 2 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/us/politics/amy-klobuchar-drops-out.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷² Quote: Pete Buttigieg. Zeleny, Jeff, Abby Phillip, and Dan Merica. "Pete Buttigieg endorses Joe Biden." *CNN politics*. 2 Mar. 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/02/politics/pete-buttigieg-endorsement-obama-biden-calls/index.html>, 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷³ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷⁴ "American Samoa results." *NBC News*. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-primary-elections/american-samoa-results>. 14 Jun. 2020.

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SANDERS: Bernie Sanders!⁴⁷⁵

ANNOUNCER: Maine!

BIDEN: Joe Biden!⁴⁷⁶

ANNOUNCER: Utah!

SANDERS: Bernie Sanders!⁴⁷⁷

ANNOUNCER: Arkansas!

BIDEN: Joe Biden!⁴⁷⁸

ANNOUNCER: Oklahoma!

BIDEN: Biden!⁴⁷⁹

ANNOUNCER: Alabama!

BIDEN: Biden!⁴⁸⁰

ANNOUNCER: Tennessee!

BIDEN: That's me too!⁴⁸¹

ANNOUNCER: Colorado!

SANDERS: Bernie Sanders!⁴⁸²

ANNOUNCER: Minnesota!

BIDEN: Biden!⁴⁸³

ANNOUNCER: Massachusetts!

⁴⁷⁵ "Super Tuesday primary results." *POLITICO*. 13 Jun. 2020. <https://www.politico.com/2020-election/results/super-tuesday/>. 14

Jun. 2020.

⁴⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁴⁸¹ Ibid.

⁴⁸² Ibid.

⁴⁸³ Ibid.

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BIDEN: Biden!⁴⁸⁴

ANNOUNCER: Virginia!

BIDEN: Biden!⁴⁸⁵

ANNOUNCER: North Carolina!

BIDEN: Bi-den!⁴⁸⁶

ANNOUNCER: Texas!

BIDEN: Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.!⁴⁸⁷

ANNOUNCER: And here's the big one, California!

BIDEN: Joe—

SANDERS: Bernie Sanders!⁴⁸⁸

ANNOUNCER: Woo! And there you have it. Super Tuesday awards 680 delegates to Joe Biden and 554 delegates to Bernie Sanders. In a distant third place is Elizabeth Warren, winning just 58 delegates. Michael Bloomberg won 49 and Tulsi Gabbard won 2.⁴⁸⁹

ANNOUNCER: [55] It's March 4, say goodbye to Michael Bloomberg.⁴⁹⁰

BLOOMBERG: I will not be our party's nominee, but I will not walk away from the most important political fight of my life.⁴⁹¹

ANNOUNCER: [54] March 5, say goodbye to Elizabeth Warren.⁴⁹²

⁴⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁹ "Super Tuesday primary results." *POLITICO*. 13 Jun. 2020. <https://www.politico.com/2020-election/results/super-tuesday/>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁰ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election,_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election,_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹¹ Quote: Mike Bloomberg. Burns, Alexander. "Bloomberg Endorses Biden as Sanders Laments Turnout of Younger Voters." *The New York Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/04/us/politics/michael-bloomberg-drops-out.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹² "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election,_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election,_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

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ELIZABETH WARREN: If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner.' And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?' I promise you this: I will have a lot more to say on that subject later on.⁴⁹³

ANNOUNCER: [51] It's March 8th and we can report that Joe Biden has won Maine's primary.⁴⁹⁴

ANNOUNCER: [49] It's March 10 and we've got a bunch of primaries today. Joe Biden has won contests in Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Washington. Bernie Sanders won the contests for North Dakota and Democrats abroad, but his electoral chances are looking slimmer by the day.⁴⁹⁵

ANNOUNCER: [46] It's March 13 and we have some horrifying news to report. While conducting a no-knock search warrant, Louisville Metro Police officers fatally shot Breonna Taylor, an African American emergency medical technician, in her home. The police were reportedly searching for people who, it turns out, they already had in custody. Ms. Taylor was 26 years old.⁴⁹⁶

The same day, March 13, the President has declared a national emergency in response to the Coronavirus.⁴⁹⁷ There are now 2,100 confirmed cases⁴⁹⁸ in the United States. We also have reports that Louisiana had decided to postpone its primary by two months in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. More states are expected to follow.⁴⁹⁹

ANNOUNCER: [44] And with 44 days until the New York Primary,⁵⁰⁰ it's the Ides of March,⁵⁰¹ front runner Joe Biden and challenger Bernie Sanders are debating in a CNN studio in Washington, DC.⁵⁰² Senator Sanders, we'll start with you.

⁴⁹³ Quote: Elizabeth Warren. Smith, David. "We still have a problem with female authority': how politics sets a trap for American women." *The Guardian*. 6 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/05/elizabeth-warren-drops-out-women-politics-sexism-analysis>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁴ "2020 Primary Elections: National Results & Map." NBC News.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-primary-elections/results-map>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁵ "March 10 primary election results." *ABC News*. 10 Mar. 2020.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/march-10-primary-election-results/story?id=69438712>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁶ The following source contains violence: Burke, Minyvonne. "Breonna Taylor police shooting: What we know about the Kentucky woman's death." *NBC News*. 15 May. 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/breonna-taylor-police-shooting-what-we-know-about-kentucky-woman-n1207841>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁷ Taylor, Derrick Bryson. "How the Coronavirus Pandemic Unfolded: a Timeline." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁸ "Pelosi and Trump Reach Deal on a Relief Package." *The New York Times*. 13 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/world/coronavirus-news-live-updates.html#link-37509802>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁴⁹⁹ Corasaniti, Nick, and Patricia Mazzei. "Louisiana Postpones April Primary as 4 More States Prepare to Vote on Tuesday." *The New York Times*. 13 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/us/politics/primary-voting-coronavirus.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁰⁰ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020. This countdown is based on that original date and will be adjusted later in the script: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁰¹ Stezano, Martin. "Beware the Ides of March. But Why?." *HISTORY*. 13 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.history.com/news/beware-the-ides-of-march-but-why>. 14 Jun 2020.

⁵⁰² Democratic Presidential Debate on March 15, 2020 in Washington, DC, hosted by CNN and Univision.

MARCH DEBATE SUPERCUT⁵⁰³

BERNIE SANDERS: This is an unprecedented moment in American history. Now, I obviously believe in Medicare for all. I will fight for that as president, but right now in this emergency, I want every person in this country to understand that when you get sick, you go to the doctor. When you get sick, if you have the virus, that will be paid for. Do not worry about the cost right now, because we're in the middle of a national emergency.⁵⁰⁴

JOE BIDEN: With all due respect to Medicare for all, you have a single-payer system in Italy. It doesn't work there. It has nothing to do with Medicare for all. That would not solve the problem at all. We can take care of that right now by making sure that no one has to pay for treatment, period, because of the crisis. No one has to pay for whatever drugs are needed, period, because of the crisis. No one has to pay for hospitalization because of the crisis, period. That is a national emergency, and that's how it's handled.⁵⁰⁵

BERNIE SANDERS: The dysfunctionality of the current healthcare system is obviously apparent. As I said earlier, there are people who hesitate to go to the doctor.⁵⁰⁶ In terms of Medicare for all, despite what the vice president is saying, what the experts tell us, is that one of the reasons that we are unprepared, and have been unprepared, is we don't have a system. We got thousands of private insurance plans. That is not a system that is prepared to provide healthcare to all people. In a good year without the epidemic, we're losing up to 60,000 people who die every year because they don't get to a doctor on time.⁵⁰⁷

JOE BIDEN: That has nothing to do when you're in a national crisis. The national crisis says we're responding. It's all free. You don't have to pay for a thing. That has nothing to do with whether or not you have an insurance policy. This is a crisis. We're at war with the virus. We're at war with the virus. It has nothing to do with copays or anything. We just pass a law saying that you do not have to pay for any of this, period. We, out of the Treasury, are going to pay for this. It's a national emergency.⁵⁰⁸

Video: "WATCH THE ENTIRE CNN-UNIVISION DEMOCRATIC DEBATE (6 VIDEOS)." CNN politics. 16 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2020/03/16/part-1-entire-cnn-univision-debate-washington-dc-sot-vpx.cnn>. 14 Jun. 2020.

Transcript: "CNN Democration Presidential Primary Debate. Aired 8-10p ET." *CNN*. 15 Mar. 2020.

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2003/15/se.03.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁰³ The text for the following scene comes from the debate on March 15, 2020. Internal cuts were made by members of Theater In Asylum to shorten the scene while still keeping the integrity of the lines and discussion. If a large cut was made to the middle of a candidates' lines a footnote was added.

⁵⁰⁴ Quote: Bernie Sanders. "CNN Democration Presidential Primary Debate. Aired 8-10p ET." *CNN*. 15 Mar. 2020.

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2003/15/se.03.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁰⁵ Quote: Joe Biden. *Ibid.*

⁵⁰⁶ Quote: Bernie Sanders. *Ibid.*

⁵⁰⁷ Quote Bernie Sanders. *Ibid.*

⁵⁰⁸ Quote: Joe Biden. *Ibid.*

All expenditures for The Debates are paid for by Theater in Asylum. No actions, script lines, voting guide, or events are authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Theater in Asylum does not endorse any candidate in this race. We simply want more people, people like you, to engage and participate. No copyright infringement, defamation, libel, or slander is intended. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at info@theaterinasyllum.com. Please don't sue us!

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BERNIE SANDERS: Last year at least 30,000 people died in America because they didn't get healthcare when they should, because we don't have universal coverage. I think *that's* a crisis. One out of five people in America cannot afford the prescription drugs they need. They suffer. Some die. I consider *that* a crisis. Bottom line is we need a simple system, which exists in Canada, exists in countries all over the world, and that is if you are an American, you get the healthcare you need, end of discussion. We can save huge sums of money doing that. The trick is, do we have the guts to take on the healthcare industry.⁵⁰⁹

JOE BIDEN: People are looking for results, not a revolution.⁵¹⁰

HORSE RACE #10⁵¹¹

ANNOUNCER: Welcome back. After a turbulent debate in which, among other things, Vice President Joe Biden committed to, if nominated, choosing a woman as his running mate,⁵¹² we have two primaries this week.⁵¹³

ANNOUNCER: [42] It's March 17th and Joe Biden has won the contests in Florida, Arizona, and Illinois, increasing his delegate lead over Bernie Sanders.⁵¹⁴

ANNOUNCER: [40] It's March 19th and Tulsi Gabbard is both exiting the race⁵¹⁵ and endorsing Vice President Biden.⁵¹⁶

TULSI GABBARD: Although I may not agree with the vice president on every issue, I know that he has a good heart and is motivated by his love for our country and the American people. I'm confident that he will lead our country guided by the spirit of aloha — respect and compassion — and thus help heal the divisiveness that has been tearing our country apart.⁵¹⁷

⁵⁰⁹ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Ibid.

⁵¹⁰ Quote: Joe Biden. Ibid.

⁵¹¹ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁵¹² "CNN Democraton Presidential Primary Debate. Aired 8-10p ET." *CNN*. 15 Mar. 2020.

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/2003/15/se.03.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹³ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹⁴ "March 17 primary election results." *ABC News*. 17 Mar. 2020.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/march-17-primary-election-results/story?id=69438747>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹⁵ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020).

https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹⁶ Lerer, Lisa and Maggie Astor. "Tulsi Gabbard Drops Out of Presidential Race." *The New York Times*. 19 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/us/politics/tulsi-gabbard-drops-out.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹⁷ Quote: Tulsi Gabbard. Lerer, Lisa and Maggie Astor. "Tulsi Gabbard Drops Out of Presidential Race." *The New York Times*. 19 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/us/politics/tulsi-gabbard-drops-out.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [39] Its March 20th and in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Governor Cuomo has ordered New Yorkers to stay home. All non-essential businesses are closed.⁵¹⁸

[33] It's March 26 and The United States now leads the world in coronavirus infections. States and cities are beginning to close down in response.⁵¹⁹

ANNOUNCER: [87] And, two days later, we have some pretty incredible news here. New York is postponing its primary, due to safety concerns with the coronavirus pandemic.⁵²⁰ We were just a month away from casting our ballots,⁵²¹ but now, that ticker's gone back up to 87 days.⁵²² Two horses remain on the track.

ANNOUNCER: [77] It's April 7 and after a contentious back and forth, the Wisconsin primary did go forward today.⁵²³ Numerous problems were reported, as well as concerns of voter suppression as the city of Milwaukee's number of polling sites was reduced from 180 to just 5.⁵²⁴ Voters stood in long lines to cast their ballots, with Joe Biden ultimately prevailing.⁵²⁵

ANNOUNCER: [76] The next day, we have an announcement from the Sanders campaign.⁵²⁶

BERNIE SANDERS: I wish I could give you better news, but I think you know the truth, and that is that we are now some 300 delegates behind Vice President Biden, and the path toward victory is virtually impossible. So while we are winning the ideological battle and while we are winning the support of so many young people and working people throughout the country, I have concluded that this battle for the Democratic nomination will not be successful. And so today I am announcing the suspension of my campaign.⁵²⁷

⁵¹⁸ Evelyn, Kenya. "Here's what a 'stay home' order means for New York." *The Guardian*. 20 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/20/new-york-90-day-stay-home-order-what-it-means>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵¹⁹ Taylor, Derrick Bryson. "How the Coronavirus Pandemic Unfolded: a Timeline." *The New York Times*. 9 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁰ Cunningham, Meg. "New York presidential primary postponed amid record numbers of coronavirus cases." *ABC News*. 28 Mar. 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/york-presidential-primary-state-grapples-record-numbers-coronavirus/story?id=69807852>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵²¹ The New York Primary was originally scheduled for April 28, 2020: "2020 State Primary Election Dates." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2020-state-primary-election-dates.aspx>.

⁵²² Board of Elections. "June 23, 2020 – State and Federal Primary Elections." *New York State*. <https://www.elections.ny.gov>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵²³ Keller, Chris. "2020: Democratic primaries and key presidential election dates." *Los Angeles Times*. 4 Mar. 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/key-dates-on-2020-primary-and-presidential-election-calendar>. 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁴ Larson, Emily. "An awkward coronavirus Democratic primary in Wisconsin." *Washington Examiner*. 7 Apr. 2020. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/an-awkward-coronavirus-democratic-primary-in-wisconsin>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁵ "Joe Biden won Wisconsin, defeating Bernie Sanders, who was still an active candidate when the votes were cast." *POLITICO*. 13 Jun. 2020. <https://www.politico.com/2020-election/results/wisconsin/>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁶ "Timeline of announcements in the presidential election, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. [Lucy Burns Institute, https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/Timeline_of_announcements_in_the_presidential_election_2020). 14 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁷ Quote: Bernie Sanders. Paz, Isabella Grullón. "Read Bernie Sanders's Full Speech on Ending His Campaign." *The New York Times*. 8 Apr. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/us/politics/bernie-sanders-concession-speech.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: Senator Sanders' departure from the race virtually ensures that Joe Biden will be the Democratic Nominee for President of the United States.⁵²⁸ New York voters still have 76 days before casting their ballots.⁵²⁹

But now, we're going to skip ahead here, past the on-again, off-again, then back on-again, nature of the New York Primary.⁵³⁰ We jump to events which continue to shake the nation.

[Everything about the horse race, all theatricality, abruptly drops. These next two lines should be read flatly, without dramatising these horrific events any further than the facts do on their own.]

ANNOUNCER: [49] It's May 5th and a video has been *publicly* released of two white men, armed and driving a pickup truck, confronting and ultimately murdering a 25-year-old black man named Ahmaud Arbery. Mr. Arbery was unarmed and out for a run in Glynn County, Georgia. While the incident took place way back on February 23, and despite video evidence, no arrests were made. However, now, May 7, two days after the video was made *public*, arrests for the lynching were finally made, with charges of felony murder.⁵³¹

ANNOUNCER: [29] Just weeks later, it's May 25 and a video has emerged of a white Minneapolis Police Officer, murdering George Floyd, who is black, by suffocation. As the officer held his knee to Mr. Floyd's neck, Mr. Floyd repeated, and for nearly nine minutes,⁵³² pleaded, "I can't breathe."⁵³³

ANTIRACIST PLATFORM SCENE⁵³⁴

NARRATOR 1: We would like to take a moment here to acknowledge that...

⁵²⁸ Based on a commonly held opinion in the media. This is just one example: Gomez, Melissa. "Who is the Democratic candidate for president?" *Los Angeles Times*. 19 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-2020-democratic-presidential-candidates-2019-story.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵²⁹ Board of Elections. "June 23, 2020 – State and Federal Primary Elections." *New York State*. <https://www.elections.ny.gov>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁰ Bergin, Brigid. "It's Official: New York's Presidential Primary Is Happening." *Gothamist*. 19 May. 2020.

<https://gothamist.com/news/its-official-new-yorks-presidential-primary-happening>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵³¹ The following source contains violence: Windsor, Morgan, Christina Carrega, and Sabina Ghebremedhim. "Father and son charged with murder of unarmed black man Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia." *ABC News*. 8 May 2020.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/mother-unarmed-black-man-killed-georgia-speaks-ahmaud/story?id=70552216>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵³² The following source contains violence: Hill, Evan, Ainara Tiefenthäler, Christiaan Triebert, Drew Jordan, Haley Willis and Robin Stein. "8 Minutes and 46 Seconds: How George Floyd Was Killed in Police Custody." *The New York Times*. 31 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵³³ Quote: George Floyd. The following source contains violence: Hill, Evan, Ainara Tiefenthäler, Christiaan Triebert, Drew Jordan, Haley Willis and Robin Stein. "8 Minutes and 46 Seconds: How George Floyd Was Killed in Police Custody." *The New York Times*. 31 Mar. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁴ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum. Additional resources are provided in these footnotes.

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NARRATOR 2: Despite what law enforcement in this country does,⁵³⁵ Black Lives Matter.⁵³⁶

NARRATOR 1: Despite what our criminal justice system believes,⁵³⁷ Black Lives Matter.⁵³⁸

NARRATOR 2: Despite what the current occupant of the White House says,⁵³⁹ Black Lives Matter.⁵⁴⁰

NARRATOR 1: We know that the legacy of this nation's founding is brutal,⁵⁴¹ rife with kidnapping, oppression, and genocide.⁵⁴²

NARRATOR 2: Despite all that, we believe and know that Black Lives Matter.⁵⁴³

NARRATOR 1: We acknowledge that Theater in Asylum is led by white people and has benefited from white supremacy.⁵⁴⁴ We acknowledge that our city,⁵⁴⁵ our state,⁵⁴⁶ our country,⁵⁴⁷ the theater industry,⁵⁴⁸ and so many other contexts⁵⁴⁹ around us are unjust and discriminatory to black people, indigeous people, and other peoples of color.⁵⁵⁰ There is much work ahead to dismantle these oppressive systems, and build a nation we can all be proud of.⁵⁵¹

NARRATOR 2: We wish we could show you a debate and make clear where the candidates stand on anti-racist policies, but discussion on these issues was limited and not enough. You might remember the brief exchange about busing and segregation between Kamala Harris and Joe Biden. Some candidates, like Marianne Williamson, came out in favor of things like

⁵³⁵ Example: Nodjimbadem, Katie. "The Long, Painful History of Police Brutality in the U.S." *Smithsonian Magazine*. 27 Jul. 2017. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/long-painful-history-police-brutality-in-the-us-180964098/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁶ "About Us." *The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL)*. <https://m4bl.org/about-us/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁷ Example: Alexander, Michelle. "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." *The New Jim Crow*. 2010. <https://newjimcrow.com/about>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁸ "Black Lives Matter New York." *Black Lives Matter of Great New York*. <https://www.blacklivesmattergreaterny.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵³⁹ Example: Graham, David A, Adrienne Green, Cullen Murphy, and Parker Richards. "An Oral History of Trump's Bigotry." *The Atlantic*. Jun. 2019. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/06/trump-racism-comments/588067/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁰ "About Us." *The Organization for Black Struggle (OBS)*. <https://www.obs-stl.org/about-us/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴¹ "History of Racism and Movements." *Racial Equity Tools*.

<https://www.racialequitytools.org/fundamentals/history-of-racism-and-movements>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴² Elliott, Mary, and Jazmine Hughes. "A Brief History of Slavery That You Didn't Learn in School." *The New York Times Magazine*. 19 Aug. 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/19/magazine/history-slavery-smithsonian.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴³ "What We Believe." *Black Lives Matter*. <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁴ Theater In Asylum (TIA). <https://www.theaterinasyllum.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁵ "About ALP" *The Audre Lorde Project*. <https://alp.org/about>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁶ "The Issue." *Communities United for Police Reform*. <https://www.changethenypd.org/issue>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁷ NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. "ABOUT US: The Premier Legal Organization: Fighting for Racial Justice." *LDF: Defend Educate Empower*. <https://www.naacpldf.org/about-us/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁸ "Dear White American Theater." *We See You, White American Theater*. <https://www.weseeyouwat.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁴⁹ "MISSION, VISION, & VALUES." *Center for Racial Justice in Education*. <https://centerracialjustice.org/mission-vision-values/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁰ "Who We Are." *Black Emotional and Mental Health (BEAM)*. <https://www.beam.community/whatwebelieve>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵¹ "Talking About Race: Talking about race, although hard, is necessary. We are here to provide tools and guidance to empower your journey and inspire conversation." *National Museum of African American History and Culture*. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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reparations for slavery.⁵⁵² And while the presumptive nominee, Joe Biden, has a plan to address racial inequality,⁵⁵³ he has also resisted one of the chief demands of recent protests.

JOE BIDEN: “While I do not believe federal dollars should go to police departments violating people’s rights or turning to violence as the first resort, I do not support defunding police. The better answer is to give police departments the resources they need to implement meaningful reforms, and to condition other federal dollars on completing those reforms.”⁵⁵⁴

NARRATOR 1: Congressional Democrats⁵⁵⁵ and Republicans⁵⁵⁶ have both put forth legislation seeking to reform the criminal justice system in America, including enacting new limits on the use of lethal force⁵⁵⁷ and on the legal protections afforded to officers accused of misconduct.⁵⁵⁸

NARRATOR 2: These efforts are insufficient. Where we have hope, however, is in the anti-racist efforts of local political leaders, who are active participants in our communities.

JABARI ADVOCATE: Jabari Brisport is running for State Senate in New York’s 25th District in Brooklyn.⁵⁵⁹

As a State Senator, Jabari pledges to do “everything he can to end policing and incarceration as we know it.” He “will support efforts from the City to decrease funding to the NYPD and work to build non-violent, publicly accountable approaches to public safety statewide.”⁵⁶⁰

⁵⁵² “THE REPARATIONS PLAN.” *Marianne Now*. <https://www.mariannenow.com/issues/the-reparations-plan>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵³ “LIFT EVERY VOICE: THE BIDEN PLAN FOR BLACK AMERICA.” *Biden President*. <https://joebiden.com/blackamerica/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁴ Quote: Joe Biden, Biden, Joe. “We must urgently root out systemic racism, from policing to housing to opportunity.” *USA Today*. 10 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/06/10/biden-root-out-systemic-racism-not-just-divisive-trump-talk-column/5327631002/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁵ Example: Press Release. “Following George Floyd Murder, Reps. Pressley, Omar, Bass, Lee, Introduce House Resolution Condemning Police Brutality.” *U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley: Serving the 7th District of Massachusetts*. 29 May 2020. <https://pressley.house.gov/media/press-releases/following-george-floyd-murder-reps-pressley-omar-bass-lee-introduce-house>. 16 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁶ Example: Mascaro, Lisa and Jim Mustian. “Senate Republicans to propose policing changes in ‘Justice Act.’” *11 Eyewitness ABC News*. 17 Jun. 2020. <https://abc11.com/justice-act-police-reform-senate-bill/6251790/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁷ Example: Press Release. “Rep. Ilhan Omar Announces Slate of Bills To Address George Floyd Murder, Government Response.” *Ilhan Omar: Serving the 5th District of Minnesota*. 3 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁸ Example: Press Release. “Amash, Pressley introduce bipartisan legislation to end qualified immunity.” *U.S. Representative Justin Amash: Representing the Third District of Michigan*. 4 Jun. 2020.

<https://amash.house.gov/media/press-releases/amash-pressley-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-end-qualified-immunity>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁵⁹ Jabari Brisport NY State Senate District 25. <https://jabariforstatesenate.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁰ Quote: “Platform: Criminal Justice Reform.” Jabari Brisport NY State Senate District 25. <https://jabariforstatesenate.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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Jabari also knows that housing justice is racial justice. “That’s why he isn’t just demanding to defund the police — he is demanding that we cancel rent, end evictions, and guarantee a safe home for every New Yorker.”⁵⁶¹

ZOHRAN ADVOCATE: Zohran Kwame Mamdani is running to represent New York’s 36th State Assembly district in Queens.⁵⁶²

Zohran will tell you that “we can’t reform our way out of a racist police system that’s working exactly as designed - as a means of control over black & brown New Yorkers. We need to dramatically curtail the power and presence of the NYPD. That means cutting \$1 billion from the NYPD budget in Fiscal Year 2021 and reinvesting those savings in health, housing, and community services.”⁵⁶³

ZELNOR ADVOCATE: Zellnor Myrie is a State Senator running for reelection to serve New York’s 20th District in Brooklyn.⁵⁶⁴

DIANA ADVOCATE: Diana Richardson is an Assemblywoman running for reelection to represent New York’s 43rd District in Brooklyn.⁵⁶⁵

ZELNOR ADVOCATE: While at a peaceful protest against police brutality near Barclay Center, Senator Myrie and Assemblywoman Richardson were pepper sprayed by police.⁵⁶⁶ Days later they each voted to Repeal 50-A,^{567/568} a law which is routinely used to maintain secrecy and prevent accountability of our police department.⁵⁶⁹

DIANA ADVOCATE: Diana Richardson told City & State that the attack, “speaks volumes about what exactly is wrong here in America and how the officers are out of control.” And also that “People want accountability and transparency. Many feel that the NYPD has a badge and license to kill unjustly.”⁵⁷⁰

⁵⁶¹ Quote: Brisport, Jabari. Email. “The struggles for racial justice and housing justice are deeply intertwined.” *Jabari Brisport NY State Senate District 25*. <https://mailchi.mp/23080869ccff/dont-just-get-mad-get-active-9315340?e=c81d30576b>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶² Zohran for State Assembly. <https://www.zohranforassembly.com>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶³ Quote: “Issues: Defund the NYPD.” Zohran for State Assembly. <https://www.zohranforassembly.com/issues/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁴ Zellnor Myrie: New York State Senator District 20. <https://zellnorforstatesenate.com/#>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁵ Diana Richardson. <https://dianarichardson.net>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁶ Santiago, Amanda Luz Henning. “Even black lawmakers get pepper-sprayed.” *City & State New York*. 3 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/politics/news-politics/even-black-lawmakers-get-pepper-sprayed.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁷ @SenatorMyrie. “THREAD: Today, I voted aye to [#Repeal50A](#) for all of the families who have lost their loved ones to police brutality, for the thousands of NYers who have taken to the streets and have said enough is enough and because it is the right thing to do. (1/9) [#SD20](#) [#ZinAlbany](#) [#ZTalksCJR](#).” *Twitter*. 9 Jun. 2020. 6:46 p.m.

<https://twitter.com/SenatorMyrie/status/1270487428432789504>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁸ “NY A10611 - Relates to the disclosure of law enforcement disciplinary records.” *Bill Track 50*. 9 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1233308>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁶⁹ “Section 50-A: Personnel records of police officers, firefighters and correction officers.” *The New York State Senate*.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/CVR/50-A>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁰ Quotes: Diana Richardson. Santiago, Amanda Luz Henning. “Even black lawmakers get pepper-sprayed.” *City & State New York*. 3 Jun. 2020. <https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/politics/news-politics/even-black-lawmakers-get-pepper-sprayed.html>. 17 Jun. 2020.

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NARRATOR 1: The fight was won to repeal 50-A. The bill passed on June 9⁵⁷¹ and Governor Cuomo signed it into law on June 12.⁵⁷²

Thanks to politicians like these, progressive leaders, protesters, and growing public demand, bills are passing and more people are interested in taking up the cause of anti-racism.

NARRATOR 2: Joe Biden details a plan to address racial inequality on his website at joebiden.com/blackamerica/.⁵⁷³ But we know that he, and all of us, must do more to advance the cause of anti-racism.⁵⁷⁴

The problem persists and Black Lives are still being taken. Just over one week ago, on June 12, Rayshard Brooks was murdered after a police confrontation in a Wendy's parking lot.⁵⁷⁵

We must be explicit in naming the problem: racism and white supremacy,⁵⁷⁶ as well as explicit in naming the solution: an aggressive anti-racist platform.⁵⁷⁷ We challenge all our leaders to name, adopt, and pursue such a platform.⁵⁷⁸

HORSE RACE #11⁵⁷⁹

ANNOUNCER: [8] Today is June 15 and the Supreme Court has ruled that the the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination, applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This ruling extends protections to gay and transgender workers from workplace discrimination, a long-sought victory for the LGBT movement.⁵⁸⁰

⁵⁷¹ Nichols, Machenzie. "Gov. Andrew Cuomo to Sign 50-A Law Reform Supported by Ariana Grande, Mariah Carey and Other Artists." *Variety*. 10 Jun. 2020.

https://gothamist.com/news/live-protest-updates-june-12-2020?mc_cid=87a087a48d&mc_eid=7e754f1077. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷² Robbins, Christopher, Jen Chung, David Cruz, Jake Offenhartz, JB Nicholas, and Ben Yakas, "Live Protest Updates: Jon Batiste Leads Musical Black Lives Matter Rally At Barclays Center." *Gothamist*. 12 Jun. 2020.

https://gothamist.com/news/live-protest-updates-june-12-2020?mc_cid=87a087a48d&mc_eid=7e754f1077. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷³ "LIFT EVERY VOICE: THE BIDEN PLAN FOR BLACK AMERICA." *Biden President*. <https://joebiden.com/blackamerica/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁴ "About Color of Change." *Color of Change*. <https://colorofchange.org/about/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁵ Reyes, Lorenzo. "What we know: Timeline of Rayshard Brooks' death, protests and fallout from incident at Atlanta Wendy's." *USA Today*. 15 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/15/what-we-know-how-rayshard-brooks-killing-led-protests-atlanta-wendys/3189901001/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁶ Oluo, Ijeoma, "So You Want to Fight White Supremacy." *The Establishment*. 14 Aug. 2017.

<https://theestablishment.co/so-you-want-to-fight-white-supremacy-2b5735f22f9/index.html>. 17 Jun 2020.

⁵⁷⁷ "Being Antiracist." *National Museum of African American History and Culture*.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/being-antiracist>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁸ "Let's Fight Racism." *United Nations Associate of the United States of America*. <https://unauusa.org/advocacy/fight-racism/>. 17 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁷⁹ Unless otherwise noted the text in this scene was written by members of Theater In Asylum.

⁵⁸⁰ Totenberg, Nina. "Supreme Court Delivers Major Victory To LGBTQ Employees." *NPR*. 15 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/15/863498848/supreme-court-delivers-major-victory-to-lgbtq-employees>. 20 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: [5] It's June 18 and the Supreme Court ruled that the White House cannot immediately proceed with its plan to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA. This ruling protects 700,000 young immigrants, known as Dreamers, from deportation.⁵⁸¹

ANNOUNCER: And today is Sunday, June 21, 2020 and there are just 2 days until the New York Primary.⁵⁸² There is one horse still at it on the track and while many of you have likely voted already via Early or Absentee voting,⁵⁸³ we'd like to offer some insight into the ballot for those who have not yet voted.

Joe Biden is the presumptive nominee. He has enough delegates to be nominated at the convention,⁵⁸⁴ and he's already pivoted to debating the current president.⁵⁸⁵

VOTER 1: But other candidates will still be on the ballot, including Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Andrew Yang.⁵⁸⁶

VOTER 2: A vote for Joe Biden at this point, is largely symbolic.⁵⁸⁷ It's a way to demonstrate party unity. A vote for another candidate, however, is one part symbolic and another part strategic. Other candidates' delegates will still attend the national convention, with the potential to sway policy.⁵⁸⁸

VOTER 1: In 2016, long after Bernie suspended his campaign, he and his delegates were able to influence not only the party platform— which was the most progressive party platform in a generation⁵⁸⁹— but they were also able to influence the rules for the following election, this election, decreasing the power of superdelegates.⁵⁹⁰

⁵⁸¹ Liptak, Adam and Michael D. Shear. "Trump Can't Immediately End DACA, Supreme Court Rules." *The New York Times*. 18 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/us/trump-daca-supreme-court.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁸² Board of Elections. "June 23, 2020 – State and Federal Primary Elections." *New York State*. <https://www.elections.ny.gov>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁸³ Board of Elections. "Absentee Voting." *New York State*. <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>. 15 Jun 2020.

⁵⁸⁴ "2020 PRIMARY ELECTIONS Delegate Count." *NBC News*. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-primary-elections/delegate-count>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁸⁵ This is an opinion of members of Theater in Asylum based on the verbal confrontation between Joe Biden and Donald Trump over the news and social media.

⁵⁸⁶ "Presidential election in New York, 2020." *Ballotpedia*. https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_election_in_New_York,_2020. 15 Jun 2020.

⁵⁸⁷ Mostly taken from trends on social media. Here is an article example: Kesler, Audrey. "A vote for Biden is a vote for America." *The University Daily Kansan*. 17 Apr. 2020. http://www.kansan.com/opinion/a-vote-for-biden-is-a-vote-for-america/article_4cdb6688-801d-11ea-ab6a-c715ffc8d105.html. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁸⁸ Mostly taken from trends on social media. Here is an article example:: Cohen, Rachel M. "BERNIE SANDERS IS STAYING ON THE BALLOT TO GET MORE DELEGATES, BUT HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS AREN'T INVESTING MUCH IN THAT EFFORT." *The Intercept*. 17 Apr. 2020. <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/17/bernie-sanders-delegate-count/>. 15 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁸⁹ Bouie, Jamelle. "What Bernie Sanders Has Won." *Slate*. 11 Jul. 2016. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2016/07/the-democratic-platform-is-a-monument-to-bernie-sanders-campaign.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁰ Levy, Adam. "DNC changes superdelegate rules in presidential nomination process." *CNN politics*. 25 Aug. 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/25/politics/democrats-superdelegates-voting-changes/index.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

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ANNOUNCER: And while some like New York Governor Andrew Cuomo advocated to cancel the New York Presidential Primary,⁵⁹¹ Joe Biden defended Bernie's delegate representation. The two campaigns reached an agreement that delegates would be "filled by supporters of the Biden and Sanders campaigns based on the candidates' respective statewide results."⁵⁹²

VOTER 1: So your options still stand. You can vote for Joe Biden and his delegates,

VOTER 2: Or Bernie Sanders or another candidate and their delegates.

ANNOUNCER: There are also down-ballot races. New Yorkers will vote not just on whom they want to nominate for the Presidency, they'll also elect or reelect all 27 seats New York has in the U.S. House of Representatives, all 63 seats in the *state* senate, and all 150 seats in the state assembly.⁵⁹³ Queens voters also have their borough president on the ballot.⁵⁹⁴ There's county committee⁵⁹⁵ and even some judges on some peoples' ballots.⁵⁹⁶ So if you want...

BERNIE SANDERS: A political revolution!⁵⁹⁷

ELIZABETH WARREN: Big, structural change.⁵⁹⁸

PETE BUTTIGIEG: A new generation of leadership.⁵⁹⁹

ANDREW YANG: \$1,000 a month, to every American.⁶⁰⁰

ELIZABETH WARREN: Universal childcare⁶⁰¹

⁵⁹¹ Manchester, Julia. "New York cancels Democratic presidential primary over coronavirus." *The Hill*. 27 Apr. 2020. <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/494828-new-york-cancels-june-presidential-primary>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹² McCammond, Alexi. "Biden and Sanders reach agreement on convention delegates." *Axios*. 30 Apr. 2020. <https://www.axios.com/joe-biden-bernie-sanders-delegates-3b25045b-61f7-4eb0-923f-ecbcd37fb512.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹³ "US Elections ~ New York." 19 Jun. 2020. <https://uselections.com/ny/ny.htm>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁴ "QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY." *Spectrum New NY1*. <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/new-york-2020-election-guide/queens-borough-president-race>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁵ "COUNTY COMMITTEE." *New Kings Democrats*. https://www.newkingsdemocrats.com/county_committee. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁶ Bah, Miriama, Yasmine Chokrane, Mia Gindisand, and Miguel Flores. "Who Are Those Judges You'll See on the New York Primary Ballot?" *City Limits*. 8 Jun. 2020.

<https://citylimits.org/2020/06/08/who-are-those-judges-youll-see-on-the-new-york-primary-ballot/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁷ Prokop, Andrew. "Bernie Sanders's political revolution, explained." *Vox*. 28 Jan. 2016.

<https://www.vox.com/2016/1/28/10853502/bernie-sanders-political-revolution>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁸ Warren, Elizabeth. "Big, structural change: We've done it before, and we can do it again." *Medium*. 23 May 2019.

<https://medium.com/@teamwarren/big-structural-change-weve-done-it-before-and-we-can-do-it-again-c9a042ed8b59>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁵⁹⁹ "Pete Buttigieg: 'A New Generation of Leadership' | Campaign 2020." *The Washington Post*. 23 Jan. 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/pete-buttigieg-a-new-generation-of-leadership--campaign-2020/2019/01/23/e2e70e54-9e36-4a04-a8c0-9a4a9acfe10c_video.html. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁰ Mitchell, Ben. "Andrew Yang puts his universal basic income plan to the test." *CBS News*. 5 Dec. 2019.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/andrew-yang-universal-basic-income-plan-put-to-the-test-with-freedom-dividend-pilot-program/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰¹ "UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE." *Warren Democrats*. <https://elizabethwarren.com/plans/universal-child-care>. 20 Jun. 2020.

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BERNIE SANDERS: Free college for all⁶⁰²

JULIAN CASTRO: A repeal of section 1325 and justice for immigrants.⁶⁰³

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON: Reparations for slavery.⁶⁰⁴

ELIZABETH WARREN: A 2% wealth tax.⁶⁰⁵

AMY KLOBUCHAR: A \$15 federal minimum wage⁶⁰⁶

[Sudden angel music]

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: A Green New Deal⁶⁰⁷

KAMALA HARRIS: An end to mass Incarceration⁶⁰⁸

JOE BIDEN: A codification of Roe v Wade⁶⁰⁹

BERNIE SANDERS: Medicare for All!⁶¹⁰

PETE BUTTIGIEG: Or for all who want it!⁶¹¹

JOE BIDEN: Or just a public option!⁶¹²

ANNOUNCER: There's still time, opportunity, and an election where you can influence our leaders and advocate for these things. On Joe Biden's website, he says,

⁶⁰² "Issues: College for All and Cancel All Student Debt." *Bernie*. <https://berniesanders.com/issues/free-college-cancel-debt/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰³ Lind, Dara. "Why Julián Castro started a Democratic debate fight over repealing 'Section 1325'." *Vox*. 26 Jun. 2019. <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/26/18760665/1325-immigration-castro-democratic-debate>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁴ "RACE AND REPENTANCE IN AMERICA." *Marianne Williamson*. <https://marianne.com/race-and-repentance-in-america/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁵ "ULTRA-MILLIONAIRE TAX." *Warren Democrats*. <https://elizabethwarren.com/plans/ultra-millionaire-tax>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁶ @amyklobuchar. "There's no question about it — the federal minimum wage must be increased to \$15 an hour." *Twitter*. 21 Feb. 2019. 1:36 p.m. <https://twitter.com/amyklobuchar/status/1098652573685477378>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁷ Herndon, Astead W. "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Rally for Green New Deal in Washington." *The New York Times*. 6 May 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/06/us/politics/aoc-green-new-deal.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁸ Hensley-Clancy, Molly. "Kamala Harris's New Plan To End Mass Incarceration Leans On Her Past As A Prosecutor." *Buzz Feed News*. 9 Sep. 2019. <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mollyhensleyclancy/kamala-harris-criminal-justice>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁰⁹ Sider, David. "Biden calls for enshrining Roe v. Wade in federal law." *POLITICO*. 22 Jun. 2019. <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/22/biden-roe-v-wade-2020-1376712>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹⁰ "Issue: Health Care as a Human Right - Medicare For All." *Bernie*. <https://berniesanders.com/issues/medicare-for-all/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹¹ Scott, Dylan. "Pete Buttigieg's Medicare-for-all-who-want-it plan, explained." *Vox*. 19 Sep. 2019. <https://www.vox.com/2019/9/19/20872881/pete-buttigieg-2020-medicare-for-all>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹² "Healthcare." *Biden President*. <https://joebiden.com/healthcare/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

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JOE BIDEN: We are in a battle for the soul of America.⁶¹³

ANNOUNCER: And we see this battle every day now. We see it online, we see it in the streets, we are even beginning to see it in State legislatures. Hopefully soon, Washington. On June 4th, Voting Rights Advocate Stacey Abrams wrote in a New York Times Op-Ed...

STACEY ABRAMS: Every night for more than a week, we have witnessed the anguish and anger of demonstrators, their cries punctured by politicians urging them to vote their power. Both are right. Protest to demand attention to the wrenching pain of systemic injustice. Vote because we deserve leaders who see us, who hear us and who are willing to act on our demands.⁶¹⁴

Voting will not save us from harm, but silence will surely damn us all.⁶¹⁵

[Pause]

ANNOUNCER: Thank you.

GO VOTE SONG^{616/617}

BALLADEER: So where does this leave us? Our current Megalomaniac in Chief continues to do grave harm to the citizens of this country through a failed pandemic response,⁶¹⁸ hateful and violent campaigning,⁶¹⁹ and deeply harmful⁶²⁰ and unjust legislative moves.⁶²¹ Meanwhile, in the

⁶¹³ "Our Best Days Still Lie Ahead." *Biden President*. <https://joebiden.com>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹⁴ Quote: Stacey Abrams. "Stacey Abrams: I Know Voting Feels Inadequate Right Now." *The New York Times*. 4 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/opinion/stacey-abrams-voting-floyd-protests.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹⁵ Quote: Stacey Abrams. *Ibid*.

⁶¹⁶ Much of the following scene contains strong opinions and bias of members of Theater In Asylum. These are then exaggerated to increase theatricality.

⁶¹⁷ Song by Ali Dineen

⁶¹⁸ Peischel, Will and Jessica Washington. "Here Are 17 Ways the Trump Administration Bungled Its Coronavirus Response." *Mother Jones*. 3 Mar. 2020.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/03/here-are-17-ways-the-trump-administration-bungled-its-coronavirus-response/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶¹⁹ Cathey, Libby, and Meghan Keneally. "A look back at Trump comments perceived by some as inciting violence." *ABC News*. 30 Mar. 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/back-trump-comments-perceived-encouraging-violence/story?id=48415766>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²⁰ Keith, Tamar. "Trump Plans An Indoor Rally In Tulsa. That Has Public Health Officials Worried." *NPR*. 16 Jun. 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/16/877778784/health-officials-worry-trumps-tulsa-rally-will-pose-covid-19-risks>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²¹ Popovich, Nadja, Livia Albeck-Ripka and Kendra Pierre-Louis. "The Trump Administration Is Reversing 100 Environmental Rules. Here's the Full List." *The New York Times*. 20 May 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

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aftermaths of recent horrific lynchings of black people by police officers,⁶²² over the past month we have seen the immense power of organizing,⁶²³ and of the people, to demand justice⁶²⁴ and a deep, long-needed upending of a society built on genocide⁶²⁵ and slavery.⁶²⁶ Our elected officials have responded with everything from huge street murals declaring “Black Lives Matter”⁶²⁷ ...to defending police⁶²⁸ and their too-often violent tactics.⁶²⁹ Some officials, like the Minneapolis City Council, have vowed to completely dismantle their city’s police departments.⁶³⁰

That last one gives me some hope, though I'll believe it when I see it. I certainly plan to vote in this upcoming Primary Election.⁶³¹ But...do you remember who’s running for President this year?⁶³² Do you even remember when the New York Primaries are?⁶³³ Do I even remember any of this stuff? Well, luckily for us all, I wrote one last song with all of that information and more.

♪ BALLADEER ♪

**Please Mr. Postman chords/rhythm

[*Slow/rubato intro:*]

Despite the NY Democratic Party’s attempt
to cancel primaries,⁶³⁴ now they’re happening again
Thanks to a lawsuit by Andrew Yang⁶³⁵

⁶²² Brown, Deneen L. “It was a modern-day lynching: Violent deaths reflect a brutal American legacy.” *National Geographic*. 3 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/06/history-of-lynching-violent-deaths-reflect-brutal-american-legacy/#close>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²³ Kaplan, Juliana, Allana Akhtar and Laura Casado. “A world on fire: Here are all the major protests happening around the globe right now.” *Business Insider*. <https://www.businessinsider.com/all-the-protests-around-the-world-right-now?op=1>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²⁴ Walker, Hunter. “A group of D.C. protesters now has a list of demands.” *Yahoo News*. 3 Jun. 2020.

<https://news.yahoo.com/a-group-of-dc-protesters-now-has-a-list-of-demands-194927666.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²⁵ Fixico, Donald L. “When Native Americans Were Slaughtered in the Name of ‘Civilization’ *HISTORY*. 16 Aug. 2019.

<https://www.history.com/news/native-americans-genocide-united-states>. 20 Jun 2020.

⁶²⁶ “The 1619 Project.” *The New York Times Magazine*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>.

⁶²⁷ Wu, Nicholas. “‘Black Lives Matter’ painted in 50-foot yellow letters near White House to honor George Floyd protesters.” *USA Today*. 5 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/06/05/black-lives-matter-mural-painted-near-white-house-mayors-behest/3153364001/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²⁸ Austin, Henry, Suzanne Ciecchalski and Tom Winter. “New York Mayor Bill de Blasio defends police after video shows NYPD SUV driving into protesters.” *NBC News*. 31 May 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/new-york-mayor-bill-de-blasio-defends-police-after-video-n1220246>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶²⁹ “MAPPING POLICE VIOLENCE.” <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁰ Solender, Andrew. “Minneapolis To Disband Police Department.” *Forbes*. 9 Jun. 2020.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewsolender/2020/06/07/minneapolis-votes-to-disband-police-department/#dad754527446>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³¹ “Vote for the City You Want.” *NYC Votes*. <http://voting.nyc>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³² Burns, Alexander, Matt Flegenheimer, Jasmine C Lee, Lisa Lerer, and Jonathan Martin. “Who’s Running for President in 2020?” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/us/politics/2020-presidential-candidates.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³³ “Vote for the City You Want.” *NYC Votes*. <http://voting.nyc>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁴ Saul, Stephanie and Nick Corasaniti. “New York Board of Elections Cancels Democratic Presidential Primary.” *The New York Times*. 5 May 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/27/us/politics/democratic-primary-canceled-coronavirus.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁵ Sganga, Nicole. “Andrew Yang sues New York Board of Elections over canceled primary.” *CBS News*. 29 Apr. 2020.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/andrew-yang-sues-new-york-board-of-elections-lawsuit-canceled-primary/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

Who thought that cancelling the primaries was just total Bull Shit...⁶³⁶

[Faster / Rhythmic]

Tuesday June 23, where ya gonna be?
I hope it's voting, yeah you and me
Polls will be open from 6AM till 9 (PM!!)⁶³⁷
Just make sure to keep 6 ft apart in the lines!⁶³⁸

Now maybe you had an absentee ballot
Sent to your doorstep right at home
But the deadline to mail them is on June 22
that's TOMORROW!!!!⁶³⁹
So hurry up and get em done!

If you can't get your ballot in on time
You can still vote in person, though there might be a long line
But while you're waiting, you can read
Bout all the candidates you didn't know were running for a seat

There's the Presidential Primary (still a lot of candidates)
NY's Representatives to Congress
NY State Senate and State Assembly
And some districts and boroughs have even more possibilities!⁶⁴⁰

BALLADEER: (Go to [nyc.pollsitenavigator.com](https://www.nyc.gov/pollsitenavigator) to learn about your polling site and what exactly you'll be voting for based on your district and borough, that's [nyc.pollsitenavigator.com!](https://www.nyc.gov/pollsitenavigator))⁶⁴¹

🎵 BALLADEER 🎵

And you must be a registered democrat to vote⁶⁴²
In most of the elections that we've told you about
Tuesday June 23 from 6AM to 9 (PM)⁶⁴³

⁶³⁶ @AndrewYang. "Voting is kind of a big deal." *Twitter*. 28 Apr. 2020. 8:40 p.m.

<https://twitter.com/AndrewYang/status/1255295831546171393>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁷ "Vote for the City You Want." *NYC Votes*. <http://voting.nyc>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁸ "Social Distancing: Keep Your Distance to Slow the Spread." *CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶³⁹ "Absentee Voting." *Board of Elections in the City of New York*. <https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴⁰ "2020 Primary Election Voter Guide." *New York City Campaign Finance Board*.

<http://www.nycfb.info/nyc-votes/vgwelcomes/guide-to-voting-in-the-2020-elections/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴¹ "Poll Site Locator." *The Board of Elections in the City of New York*. <https://nyc.pollsitenavigator.com/search>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴² Lopes, Diego. "These Are The States You Need To Register as a Democrat To Vote In The Primaries." *Cursor*. 22 Nov. 2019.

<https://www.cursor.org/politics/2019/11/22/states-register-democrat-primaries.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴³ "Vote for the City You Want." *NYC Votes*. <http://voting.nyc>. 20 Jun. 2020.

Just make sure to keep 6 ft apart in the lines!⁶⁴⁴

[*Slower/Rubato*]

And if you're still not sure what you're gonna do,
Remember what Stacey Abrams said:
"Voting will not save us from harm, but silence will surely damn us all."⁶⁴⁵
Yes, silence will surely damn us all.

So vote for someone you believe in,
Or maybe just someone who can win,
Voting's one way that you can say
That we won't stand for this misogynistic⁶⁴⁶ white supremacist⁶⁴⁷ fascist⁶⁴⁸ Garbage⁶⁴⁹ for one
more goddamn day

So fill out your absentee ballot⁶⁵⁰
Or be prepared to wait in some lines⁶⁵¹
Visit nyc.pollsiterlocator.com
to find out where to go⁶⁵²
And cast a vote this week,
And then again in November—⁶⁵³
But first just cast your vote this week,
cast your vote this week!⁶⁵⁴

[*End of play.*]

⁶⁴⁴ "Social Distancing: Keep Your Distance to Slow the Spread." *CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴⁵ Abrams, Stacey. "Stacey Abrams: I Know Voting Feels Inadequate Right Now." *The New York Times*. 4 Jun. 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/opinion/stacey-abrams-voting-floyd-protests.html>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴⁶ Tumulty, Karen. "Trump's history of flippant misogyny." *The Washington Post*. 8 Aug. 2015. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trumps-history-of-flippant-misogyny/2015/08/08/891f1bec-3de4-11e5-9c2d-ed991d848c48_story.html. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴⁷ Serwer, Adam. "The President's Pursuit of White Power." *The Atlantic*. 13 Jan. 2019. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/01/trump-embraces-white-supremacy/579745/>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁴⁸ Line based on the fact that Donald Trump is often labeled as a fascist on. This article argues that Donald Trump is not a fascist and explains why: Matthews, Dylan. "I asked 5 fascism experts whether Donald Trump is a fascist. Heere's what they said." *Vox*. 19 May 2016. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2015/12/10/9886152/donald-trump-fascism>.

⁶⁴⁹ Biden, Joe. "The Trump Doctrine." *Youtube*. 11 Jul. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbc9Kp3lIG8&list=PLB92o2Pvjncutg3xGv44bsbaBaRQ73yE&index=17>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵⁰ "Absentee Voting." *Board of Elections in the City of New York*. [https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting](https://vote.nyc.page/absentee-voting). 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵¹ Levine, Sam and Suman Naishadham. "Georgia primary blighted by long lines and broken voting machines." *The Guardian*. 9 Jun. 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/09/georgia-election-primary-long-lines-broken-voting-machines>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵² "Poll Site Locator." *The Board of Elections in the City of New York*. <https://nyc.pollsiterlocator.com/search>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵³ "Presidential Election Process." *USAGov*. <https://www.usa.gov/election>. 20 Jun. 2020.

⁶⁵⁴ "Vote for the City You Want." *NYC Votes*. <http://voting.nyc>. 20 Jun. 2020.