

PRESS RELEASE

TO: Media Contacts
FROM: John Birkner, Jr. – Mayor Emeritus, Borough of Westwood, NJ
DATE: February 20, 2020
RE: For Immediate Release



With Iowa and New Hampshire now in the rearview mirror, the campaign for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States can truly begin in earnest. The field of candidates has been whittled down and we have seen some really good candidates suspend their campaigns. Most notable for me were Kamala Harris and my friend Cory Booker, both of whom I have the utmost respect and admiration for. I would like to see a woman in the White house, and I believe that Senator Harris would be a great choice as Vice-President for the eventual nominee.

Perhaps it's a "mayor thing" so it is no surprise that I supported Senator Booker throughout his career and Presidential campaign. I like a lot of what former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg brings to the table, but the one candidate that I believe can win in November and return our democracy to its status as a beacon of light is Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Bright, articulate, compassionate, courageous, empathetic, and a realist. Those are qualities many current candidates possess in one way or another, but Mayor Pete puts them all in one package that is uplifting and inspiring.

At a time when defeating Donald Trump is as Senator Booker so correctly points out "only the floor, not the ceiling" I refuse to attack the policies or records of current candidates, and call on all to unify behind the Democratic values that have always made the United States great. Mayor Pete Buttigieg is the leader we can all stand behind. As a mayor, there is no elected position that has a more acute understanding or impact on the lives of the constituents served. Mayor Pete's service in the United States Marine Corps, and his personal courage, keen intellect and ability to calmly and thoroughly respond to criticism make him uniquely qualified to stand up to, and unseat Donald Trump.

The time is now for Democrats to stand together, join together, and vote together to elect a President that can heal the damage to our standing with our world allies, to our environment, and our strength as a world leader in Civil rights and the rule of law. I endorse Pete Buttigieg as the Democratic nominee for President of the United States of America.