

## NCGA 2020 Presidential Election: Joe Biden

### Who We Are:

- The National Corn Growers Association represents nearly 40,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states.
- NCGA represents growers across 46 states.
- NCGA's membership provides a unique perspective into the priorities of rural America – an extremely important electorate which has demonstrated the ability to swing key districts and states in recent elections.

### Why It Matters:

- Twelve states are identified as “swing states” by FiveThirtyEight. Of those 12 states, eight are in the top 20 in terms of corn production. Those states contain tens of thousands of NCGA's dues-paying members.
- According to NPR, the voting shift between 2008 and 2016 was larger in rural areas than amongst other constituencies.
- In a New York Times article, columnist Emily Badger noted rural America “retains vastly disproportionate electoral strength.”
- An understanding of corn growers' policy priorities will assist the campaign in aligning a message on agriculture policy which will resonate in rural America.
- The Biden campaign and NCGA have many shared priorities. We look forward to serving as a resource on these and other areas of mutual interest.



### **BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Promote ethanol and the next generation of biofuels.”*

#### NCGA:

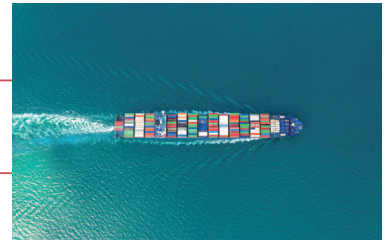
- Each year, roughly 40 percent of field corn goes into fuel ethanol. Ethanol is the second-largest customer for U.S. corn.
- U.S. corn farmers believe strongly in the case for using higher blends of ethanol because of corn ethanol’s ability to reduce carbon and pollutant emissions while improving fuel efficiency, all at a lower cost to consumers.
- Ethanol provides equitable, clean energy security for our country, while supporting local jobs throughout rural America.



### **BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Pursuing a trade policy that works for American farmers.”*

#### NCGA:

- Exports of corn and corn products such as distillers dried grains (DDGS) and ethanol, are responsible for 33 percent of U.S. corn farmers’ income.
- More than 20 percent of the U.S. corn crop is exported annually when accounting for corn and value-added products.
- For generations, America’s farmers and ranchers have built strong trading relationships to help maintain a competitive edge in the global economy and bolster job creation across the United States.
- U.S. trade policy must advance the interests of American farmers and ranchers by boosting U.S. agriculture’s competitiveness in regions undergoing economic growth.



### **BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Partnering with farmers to make American agriculture first in the world to achieve net-zero emissions, giving farmers new sources of income in the process.”*

#### NCGA:

- Sustainable farming practices that build up soil health allow farmers to take more control of their farms by strengthening productivity and enabling profitability.
- Since 1980, corn farmers have been working to improve the quality of soil, water and air around our farms.
- Soil loss per bushel has decreased by 51 percent.
- Corn production has seen a 30 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions per bushel.
- The energy used to produce a bushel of corn has decreased by 38 percent.
- NCGA supports policies that will address the potential for agriculture to be a part of the climate solution by making it easier for producers to participate in climate-smart practices, navigate carbon markets and earn extra income through carbon sequestration.



**BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Expand bio-based manufacturing to bring cutting-edge manufacturing jobs back to rural America.”*

**NCGA:**

- Corn can improve the environmental footprint of many products used by consumers, including plastic bottles, acrylics, solvents, fibers, packaging, and coolants.
- The renewables industry is already an important driver for the U.S. economy, generating billions of dollars in revenue. Additional potential in the emerging bio-economy remains largely untapped.
- The ability to produce economically competitive, bio-advantaged molecules, compared to traditional petrochemicals, is driving many companies to review how corn can play a larger role in their future procurement strategy.



**BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Transform our crumbling transportation infrastructure – including roads and bridges, rail, aviation, ports, and inland waterways – making the movement of goods and people faster, cheaper, cleaner, and manufactured in America while preserving and growing the union workforce.”*

**NCGA:**

- America’s corn farmers need reliable means of moving our crops to customers, whether it’s to livestock feed yards, grain elevators, the ethanol plant, or ports for export. Farmers use many modes of transportation, with the inland waterway system being a vital artery of transportation for our products, especially for farmers in the Midwest.
- Corn growers understand the competitive advantage a reliable and efficiently operated waterways system means to our industry. However, to maintain our ability to compete globally, additional investments must be made to accelerate the modernization of the U.S. inland waterways.
- The inland waterways represent the safest, most environmentally sustainable, and cost-effective way to transport grain, equipment and other goods.



**BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Expand broadband, or wireless broadband via 5G, to every American recognizing that millions of households without access to broadband are locked out of an economy that is increasingly reliant on virtual collaboration.”*

**NCGA:**

- It is critical to ensure that our rural communities have access to broadband in order to thrive and attract future generations.





### **BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Strengthen our agricultural sector.”*

#### NCGA:

- Strengthening the federal farm safety net is vital to supporting the agriculture sector. NCGA has been a leader in developing strong risk management tools, advocating for their inclusion in farm bill reauthorization legislation and working with federal agencies to ensure they function as intended.
- The [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) program and the Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\) program](#), authorized by the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills, provide a line of defense for producers as prices or revenues fall. If corn prices stay at their current lows for the rest of the marketing year, then PLC may trigger for corn producers with base acres for the 2019 crop. If prices increase above reference prices, then the program may not trigger, a positive sign that corn prices are recovering, and the safety net’s PLC program is working exactly as intended.
- ARC payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of the commodity is less than the guarantee. While the ARC program is unlikely to pay out for the 2019 crop year, producers in this program will be protected against revenue losses for their 2020 crop, particularly if low prices persist for an extended period of time or yields unexpectedly decline.
- The [Federal Crop Insurance program](#) is designed to provide additional protection for producers in the case of a more significant loss. Crop insurance will be key to managing the uncertainty created by COVID-19. If yields decline due to unexpected weather, or prices fall dramatically as a result of an economic downturn, then crop insurance support may kick in to help mitigate the damage to producers.
- Access to adequate cash flows is a key need for farmers, especially when prices are low, and the future is uncertain. The [USDA Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#) operates as a lender of last resort, providing a variety of programs and opportunities for producers that have limited resources available through traditional lending institutions.

### **BIDEN** Campaign Priority: *“Establish a new voluntary carbon farming market that rewards farmers for the carbon they sequester on their land and the greenhouse gas emission reductions that they secure.”*

#### NCGA:

- Agriculture has a tremendous opportunity to lead by example with impactful, common-sense climate solutions. Farmers are vital partners in stabilizing the climate and increasing resilience to climate impacts.
- Corn farmers also help grow an equitable clean energy future through increased use of renewable fuels such as ethanol that affordably decarbonize transportation.

