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E PLURIBUS UNUM LAUNCHES 2020 POLICY TRACKER TO HIGHLIGHT WHERE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES STAND ON RACE AND EQUITY ISSUES

NEW ORLEANS -- Today, E Pluribus Unum Founder and President Mitch Landrieu announced the launch of the E Pluribus Unum’s 2020 Presidential Policy Tracker. The tracker summarizes and highlights the current presidential candidates’ stances on issues related to race and equity, including criminal justice, wealth/economics, education, health, housing, and voting/democracy) in a single, accessible website. In October 2019, Landrieu launched E Pluribus Unum (EPU), an initiative created to fulfill America's promise of justice and opportunity for all by breaking down the barriers that divide us by race and class. In EPU’s year-long research journey around the South, we found that where local political, community, and philanthropic leaders openly prioritize racial diversity and inclusion, there is more hope and optimism in their community’s future among residents.

“At EPU, we believe that we are better together than we are apart and that we can only fulfill America’s promise of justice and opportunity for all if we break down the barriers that have divided us by design. To do this, we need our leaders at the local, state, and national levels to prioritize creating more equitable communities,” said EPU founder and president Mitch Landrieu.

Landrieu continued, “We also know that political leaders play a crucial role in setting the tone on discussions of race, economic opportunity, and equity. Closing gaps and instilling equity in government should not be a partisan issue -- healing our divides must be an important issue for our country to reckon with as a whole. It’s a positive sign that many presidential candidates have begun to address these issues in their policy platforms.”

The policy tracker can be found at https://www.unumfund.org/2020policytracker.

Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League and EPU National Advisory Council Member, said, “The E Pluribus Unum 2020 Presidential Policy Tracker is a profound resource for our citizens to gain more knowledge on the issues that directly impact racial division and equity in our country. Together, we will continue to promote economic empowerment and change the course our nation’s history. The National Urban League remains a proud partner to so many who are committed to advancing the work for an equitable America.”

Issues are grouped into three broad categories that match the major buckets discussed in EPU’s Divided by Design: Findings from the American South report: opportunity, justice, and
democracy. Each category has various subcategories again based on qualitative research conducted over the past year.

For the purpose of the tracker, the EPU team researched and summarized proposals from active candidates’ platforms and social media statements. In this election cycle, more national candidates have articulated policies and plans that explicitly address racial equity issues that impact the South, central to EPU’s mission and vision. All candidates of both parties highlight racial equality or racial justice policies. Each candidate, listed below in alphabetical order, who has expressed a stance on an issue is listed under each subcategory.

- Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)
- Former Vice President Joe Biden (D-DE)
- Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg (D-NY)
- Former Mayor Pete Buttigieg (D-IN)
- Former Representative John Delaney (D-MD)
- Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- Former Governor Deval Patrick (D-MA)
- Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT)
- Tom Steyer (D-CA)
- President Donald Trump (R-NY)
- Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- Former Representative Joe Walsh (R-IL)
- Former Governor William Weld (R-MA)
- Andrew Yang (D-CA)

The policy tracker is intended as an informational resource and is not a judgment of any candidate’s policy or position.

The 2020 Presidential Policy Tracker, which will be updated on an ongoing basis, follows EPU’s first report, Divided by Design: Findings from the American South, released in October 2019, that covered qualitative and quantitative findings from discussions with 800 people in one-on-one interviews, small groups and random-sample focus groups to learn how southerners are impacted by race, equity, economic opportunity and violence. EPU also commissioned an 1,800-person survey on attitudes on race and class across the 13-state region.

To learn more about EPU, visit unumfund.org.

To view the policy tracker, visit www.unumfund.org/2020policytracker.

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E Pluribus Unum is an initiative created to fulfill America’s promise of justice and opportunity for all by breaking down the barriers that divide us by race and class. In its first year, the E Pluribus Unum team traveled extensively across the American South to uncover and confront the challenges we face, to learn from people about what separates us and what can bring us together, and to find bold and effective solutions to tackle the modern legacy of Jim Crow so that an inclusive new South may be born. Incubated at Emerson Collective and led by former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, E Pluribus Unum is building a series of programs and initiatives to cultivate courageous leaders who are committed to realizing an inclusive vision for a new South, champion transformative policies to reverse the enduring harms of America’s Jim
Crow era past for those who continue to experience them today, and change narratives that perpetuate systemic and interpersonal racism in order to shift people’s attitudes and behaviors. To learn more, visit www.unumfund.org.