[**2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/2020-presidential-election) **Published** July 3, 2019

**Buttigieg proposes national service plan to help unify the country**

2020 [Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg](https://www.foxnews.com/category/person/pete-buttigieg) wants to dramatically increase national service opportunities to "reignite a sense of unity in America."

[The South Bend, Ind. mayor](https://www.foxnews.com/category/person/pete-buttigieg) on Wednesday announced what his campaign has dubbed "A New Call to Service." The initiative would build a network of one million National Service members by 2026, when America celebrates the 250th anniversary of its independence.

“National service can help us to form connections between very different kinds of Americans, as was my experience in the military,” Buttigieg said in announcing his plan.

Pointing to his tours of duty in Afghanistan, the 37-year old emphasized that "I served alongside and trusted my life to people who held totally different political views. You shouldn't have to go to war in order to have that kind of experience, which is why I am proposing a plan to create more opportunities for national service."

The proposal - which Buttigieg was scheduled to unveil later Wednesday at a Sioux City, Iowa town hall -  would immediately offer national service opportunities to 250,000 positions through the existing federal and AmeriCorps grantee organizations. The program would focus on students at high schools, community colleges, vocational schools, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as well as so-called "opportunity youth" (people between ages 16-24 who are neither in school nor working).

The plan would also create competitive grant funding for communities, cities and regions. And it would create new service corps, including a Climate Corps, Community Health Corps, and an Intergenerational Corps.

Pointing to polls that indicate Americans' trust in institutions has never been lower, the Buttigieg campaign said the plan "seeks to unite a new generation of American youth by mutual service and common values."

Currently, AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps offer young people opportunities to serve in low-income areas in the U.S. and abroad.

Buttigieg first suggested a national service plan during an interview with MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow in April.

Two rivals for the Democratic nomination, former Rep. John Delaney of Maryland and Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, have also rolled out expanded national service plans over the past couple of months.

Delaney, Moulton, and fellow Democratic White House hopeful Kirsten Gillibrand have also proposed student debt forgiveness or subsidized college for students who go into national service.  
 **Paul Steinhauser is a politics reporter based in New Hampshire.**

**Background:**  
  
Alexis de Tocqueville in “democracy in America” was amazed in the social cohesion in America (a land of mutts) and the participatory eagerness of its citizens to engage in civic life and fulfill their civic obligations. Robert Putnum in “Bowling Alone” discusses the degradation of what de Tocqueville observed over a century and a half prior. Distrust in government and other institutions combined is at an all-time low and participation in civil society continues to decline. Many worry, if these trends continue, the bonds of what makes us “Americans” will sever and the country will not survive. Your book poses enhanced civics education, other proposed citizenship test passage or community service requirements to graduate, and Mayor Pete proposes national service. Watch the clips online and listen to the Akhil Amar (Yale constitutional law professor and legal school born to immigrant parents) and answer whether you agree with Mayor Pete, the addition of civics classes, etc. or whether you believe this is much ado about nothing.  **Assignment:**1. “Akhil Amar on Timeless Constitutional Lessons” Exit Ticket  
2. Notes from Short Clips on Mayor Pete’s Plan   
3. My Response to the question posed.   
 **EXTRA CREDIT:** When I asked my Parents/Guardians/Adult in my life the policy question, they told me..... I agree/disagree because...