The stakes for the upcoming election are very high.
The rule of law is under attack. Families are being cruelly separated. Children are dying in cages. Lawmakers have openly embraced white supremacy. From climate to tax policy and all points between, the policies pushed by the current occupants of the White House threaten each and every one of us.

We can and will find a candidate to represent us in the next election.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:**

Global Exchange is not in the business of telling you who to vote for. However, using this guide will help you evaluate debate performance among the candidates by providing context on the issue areas we’ve been organizing around for over three decades: immigration and intervention.

We’ve broken down possible candidate answers to questions in these two issue areas and highlight what we feel are the best answers.

Follow along as the candidates answer questions on these topics, using this guide to cut through the clutter and fluff.

Take notes. Ask yourself - which candidates speak directly to our values?

At the end of these debates, we hope you’ll be better able to decide which candidate you are most fired up about.

And then, as always, get to organizing to make sure the real change we need happens - in the White House, in our communities, and everywhere.

**SHARE ON SOCIAL:**

We’re going to be following the debates and the lead up to the 2020 election closely. Join the conversation:

- @globalexchange
- facebook.com/globalexchange

We’re using the hashtag #2020GlobalVision
Drop us a line here: 2020globalvision@globalexchange.org
IMMIGRATION

ANSWERS/POINTS WE’RE LOOKING FOR:

FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY
Families should never be separated as a means to deter border crossings. This policy is cruel, full stop.

DEHUMANIZING LANGUAGE
No human being is illegal. No human being should be referred to as ‘illegal,’ an ‘alien,’ or an ‘illegal alien.’ No candidate for higher office should use these words. The best candidates are those who call out dehumanizing language, and put forward policy barring the usage of these terms by government agencies.

ASYLUM SEEKERS
Access to asylum is a human right protected by domestic and international law. Candidates must explicitly affirm the rights of all asylum seekers. Candidates should outline strategy for strengthening safeguards for asylum seekers, underline the moral and legal obligation of the United States to respect the human rights of asylum seekers, and outline a plan for rolling back the current illegal policies denying these rights.

INVESTIGATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Children have died in Border Patrol custody. Federal records reveal that in each of the past four years, 1,000 or more immigrant children who arrived at the southern U.S. border without their parents have reported being sexually abused while in government custody. Individual officers and the institutions tasked with border security have violated immigrant human rights routinely. Candidates should articulate how to hold these institutions and individuals to high standards of accountability to demonstrate commitment to concrete action to prevent future abuses.

HELPING PEOPLE STAY HOME
It is critically important that candidates demonstrate familiarity with the dynamics of poverty, displacement, and drug war violence that drive regional migration from Central America and Mexico and a commitment to invest resources in addressing these imbalances in cooperation with our neighbors. We must grapple with root causes, not engage in futile efforts to seal ourselves off from troubling realities – some of which American policy has helped create.
ENDING U.S. WARS, THREATS, AND INTERVENTION

ANSWERS/POINTS WE’RE LOOKING FOR:

**IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL**

The world is safer without nuclear weapons. The deal proposed and ratified during the Obama administration (and unilaterally abrogated by Trump) provided a framework that lowered tensions and the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Candidates need to outline credible plans for restoring a framework for reducing threats (conventional and nuclear) in the region that seeks to restore an understanding with Iran, while avoiding easy distortions that dishonestly present Iran as simply aggressive or irrational.

**US/SAUDI RELATIONS**

Historically, the United States has given the Saudi monarchy a pass on serious human rights abuses – due to its importance as an oil producer, arms customer, and regional ally. We have supplied its brutal and illegal war in Yemen. The current Administration has given cover to the murder of journalist and U.S. resident, Jamal Kashoggi, ordered by the Saudi Crown Prince.

We need candidates to question this relationship by immediately ending support for the war in Yemen as well as our uncritical and unconditional support of the monarchy.

**ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

We need candidates unafraid of standing up for the basic human rights of the Palestinian people, even when it means criticizing Israeli policy. Any serious candidate for higher office should recognize the unacceptable bias toward Israel in current American policy and directly address the human rights and legitimate aspirations to statehood of the Palestinian people. Israel should be held to the same standards of conduct and human rights as any other nation.

**MILITARY SPENDING**

The United States currently spends more on our military than the next top seven countries combined. We need candidates who prioritize human needs over military spending and have a plan for substantial reduction of expenditures. No candidate for higher office should support further increasing military expenditures.

**INTERVENTION, GENERALLY**

We need candidates who will restore U.S. respect for international law. No country has the right to wage unprovoked war anywhere in the world. We foolishly abandoned these non-interventionist principles in the wake of the attacks of September 11th, 2001. They need to be restored as part of a program to dramatically reduce our military presence worldwide.
WHAT DID THE CANDIDATES SAY? YOUR NOTES:

IMMIGRATION

What Candidates Answered Questions / Addressed Immigration?

How did they measure up? Check one:

Candidate Name ___________________________  □ Great Answer  □ Needs Work  □ Failed

Notes ________________________________________________________________________________________

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## ENDING U.S. WARS, THREATS, AND INTERVENTION

**What Candidates Answered Questions / Addressed U.S. Wars, Threats, Intervention?**

How did they measure up?  

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