

Cory Booker



“President Trump’s actions have been detrimental to global stability and maintaining peace in the world, and have left the American people worse off and at greater risk.” — Senator Cory Booker

At a Glance

Cory Booker began his political career in 1998 as a city councilman in Newark, New Jersey, fighting to [highlight urban development issues](#) by going so far as to stage a hunger strike and live in a tent in the crime-ridden parts of the city. He later served seven years as mayor of Newark, where his [hands-on approach](#) to governing had him shoveling snow, adopting stray dogs, and carrying a neighbor out from a house fire.

In 2013, Booker was elected to the Senate. He has sat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since 2017, where he has been increasingly critical of the Trump administration’s foreign policy. He [views](#) post-WWII support for democratic growth around the world as the greatest U.S. foreign policy achievement, and the Iraq War as the biggest mistake.

The Senator’s official [presidential platform](#) states that he “will lead with our values, stand with our allies and partners...and confront 21st century challenges.” You can find his thoughts, comments, and plans on issues of war and peace below.

Ending Endless Wars

- Booker’s [platform includes](#) a broad call for “responsible and comprehensive strategy for military operations that recognizes the constitutional requirements for congressional authorization.” This likely incorporates his stance that a congressional debate and vote on an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) against ISIS is a priority.
- He [believes](#) that “there is no military solution to the conflict” in Afghanistan, and that only a “diplomatic surge” can deliver peace

and reconciliation. He has advocated for bringing the troops home from Afghanistan, [saying](#) “we cannot have forever wars in this nation.” During the second Democratic debate, Booker [would not commit](#) to a first year deadline for withdrawal, however, citing fears of leaving a vacuum that would foster terrorism.

- He has criticized U.S. airstrikes in Syria, but has also [warned against](#) Trump’s proposed withdrawal of troops from the country, calling it “reckless and dangerous.”
 - He has condemned U.S. involvement in the brutal Saudi intervention in Yemen, voting to end military support and consistently voting to block arms sales to Saudi Arabia. He has [called](#) to “reexamine that entire relationship” and to hold the Saudis and Emiratis accountable for their many atrocities.
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Nuclear Weapons

- During the first Democratic debates, Booker listed “nuclear proliferation” alongside climate change as the [biggest threats](#) facing the U.S.
 - When asked at a [May town hall](#) about extravagant nuclear spending plans, Booker discussed budgetary waste broadly and added, “For us to be pulling out of nuclear treaties, even with our adversaries and the Russians is unacceptable to me.”
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Iran

- [Booker believes](#) it is “absolutely clear [that] the 2001 AUMF does not grant the President authority to strike Iran — for that, he must go to Congress. Any military action in Iran that circumvents Congressional approval is a blatant and unconstitutional power grab.”
- While voting in favor of the Iran Nuclear Agreement in 2015, Booker did so believing the deal to be “deeply flawed” and [also suggested](#) that lack of Iranian compliance could be addressed using more

sanctions or even “coordinated military action by the United States, Israel and other allies.”

- Despite critiquing President Trump’s withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal, Booker was the only candidate who wouldn’t commit to reentering the agreement during the first Democratic debate, [stating](#), “We need to renegotiate and get back into a deal, but I’m not going to have a primary platform to say unilaterally I’m going to rejoin that deal. Because when I’m president of the United States, I’m going to do the best I can to secure this country and that region and make sure that if I have an opportunity to leverage a better deal, I’m going to do it.” This position plays into problematic narratives that the Iran agreement was not good enough, and that a better deal is achievable.
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Pentagon Spending & Diplomatic Funding

- Despite voting against this year’s bloated Pentagon budget, Booker has consistently voted in favor of previous defense spending bills, including the behemoth \$717 billion [bill of FY 2019](#).
 - He [supports](#) a well-funded State Department, believing funding for diplomacy, development, and foreign aid strengthen the U.S.
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Korean Peninsula

- Booker has [denounced](#) President Trump’s “lack of planning, preparation, and forethought” with regards to North Korea, believing that the U.S. has made major concessions without receiving anything concrete in return.
- He [believes](#) our main goal “has to be the full denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. A nuclear North Korea is among our greatest national security threats...” In terms of policies to realize these goals, though, Booker has only spoken broadly about working “closely with our allies to develop and execute a thoughtful strategy to denuclearize the peninsula and address international

concerns with the DPRK's missile program and proliferation activities.”

Israel/Palestine

- While officially supporting a [two-state solution](#) for Israelis and Palestinians, Booker has [called himself](#) a “staunch advocate for a strengthened relationship with Israel,” often pushing to expand U.S. defense support and cooperation.
- In moves approved by his [biggest donor](#) – a pro-Israeli PAC aligned with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) – Booker: “[praised Israel](#) on the Senate floor” in 2014 at a time when thousands were being killed in the Gaza conflict; [supported efforts](#) to denounce the Obama administration’s abstention on a U.N. Security Council resolution critical of Israeli settlements in 2017; and [discussed](#) at this year’s AIPAC conference his desire to create a “unified voice from Congress” against the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement.