

# UNION SETTLEMENT

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## **UNION SETTLEMENT POLL SHOWS JOE BIDEN IS TOP DEMOCRATIC CHOICE FOR EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS, FOLLOWED BY ELIZABETH WARREN, BERNIE SANDERS AND KAMALA HARRIS**

*Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg and Julián Castro also demonstrate depth of support*

Democratic voters in East Harlem, one of the country's most diverse and economically challenged communities, picked Joe Biden as their first choice for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, in a poll released today. Biden received 30.5% of the first-place votes, followed by Elizabeth Warren (22.9%), Bernie Sanders (17.8%) and Kamala Harris (14.4%). The poll was conducted by Union Settlement ([www.unionsettlement.org](http://www.unionsettlement.org)), the oldest and largest social service provider in East Harlem.

“So far in this electoral cycle, almost all of the attention has focused on the largely rural “early voting” states – Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina,” said David Nocenti, Executive Director of Union Settlement. “There is a great risk that the presidential field will be narrowed significantly without any test of the candidates’ strength in dense, low-income urban areas like East Harlem, and that’s why Union Settlement decided to conduct this poll.”

East Harlem is a densely urban area, with almost the entire population of over 125,000 residents living within an area of less than three square miles. In relation to other cities in the country, East Harlem would be the largest city in New Hampshire, the second-largest city in South Carolina, the third-largest city in Iowa, and the fifth-largest city in Nevada.

“Union Settlement has been serving the residents of East Harlem and its surrounding communities for almost 125 years, and we have always been a strong advocate for the needs of underserved communities everywhere,” said Mr. Nocenti. “We believe it is important that the voices of these communities be heard.”

The online poll, which was conducted from July 10-19, was completed by over 150 East Harlem residents who were asked to rank the candidates in order of preference and to respond to certain demographic questions. Of those respondents, 118 were Democratic “likely voters.”<sup>1</sup>

Of the 19 Democratic presidential candidates in the poll<sup>2</sup>, only four were listed as the first choice by at least 10% of the Democratic likely voters in East Harlem, and seven candidates received no first-place votes at all. The following chart lists the percentage of first-place votes received by each candidate:

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<sup>1</sup> The poll also included Republican voters, as well as individuals who are not registered with any party, but there were too few respondents in those groups to provide reliable results.

<sup>2</sup> The poll included the candidates who had qualified for the first Democratic debates in June, except for Eric Swalwell, who dropped out of the race in early July.

| <b>Candidate</b>    | <b>% of first choice votes</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Joe Biden           | 30.5%                          |
| Elizabeth Warren    | 22.9%                          |
| Bernie Sanders      | 17.8%                          |
| Kamala Harris       | 14.4%                          |
| Julián Castro       | 3.4%                           |
| Pete Buttigieg      | 2.5%                           |
| Kirsten Gillibrand  | 2.5%                           |
| Michael Bennet      | 1.7%                           |
| Cory Booker         | 1.7%                           |
| Bill de Blasio      | 0.8%                           |
| John Delaney        | 0.8%                           |
| Marianne Williamson | 0.8%                           |
| Tulsi Gabbard       | 0.0%                           |
| John Hickenlooper   | 0.0%                           |
| Jay Inslee          | 0.0%                           |
| Amy Klobuchar       | 0.0%                           |
| Beto O'Rourke       | 0.0%                           |
| Tim Ryan            | 0.0%                           |
| Andrew Yang         | 0.0%                           |

Although there was a clear divide between the top four candidates (Biden, Warren, Sanders and Harris) and everyone else in terms of first-place choices, the Union Settlement poll was a “ranked preference” poll, allowing respondents to rank as many choices as they wished in order of preference. This shows the potential strength of candidates who might not be the top choice of many voters, but who have broad overall appeal and are ranked high consistently across the board.

Kamala Harris and Cory Booker demonstrated the breadth of their support in this way, with Harris rising from 4<sup>th</sup> place to 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Cory Booker from 9<sup>th</sup> place to 3<sup>rd</sup> place, based on their average ranking. In addition, Pete Buttigieg and Julián Castro substantially narrowed the gap with the top-tier candidates. Bernie Sanders, in contrast, dropped from 3<sup>rd</sup> place to 7<sup>th</sup> place once voters’ other preferences were considered.

The following chart shows the average point totals<sup>3</sup> for all 19 candidates:

| <b>Candidate</b> | <b>Average point total</b> |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Joe Biden        | 16.42                      |
| Kamala Harris    | 15.72                      |
| Cory Booker      | 15.53                      |
| Elizabeth Warren | 15.09                      |
| Pete Buttigieg   | 14.63                      |

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<sup>3</sup> With 19 total candidates in the poll, a first-place vote is worth 19 points, a second-place vote is worth 18 points, and so on, with a last-place vote worth 1 point. For example, a candidate listed first by every voter would have an average point total of 19. A candidate listed third (17 points) by 50% of the voters and seventh (13 points) by 50% of the voters would have an average point total of 15.

| <b>Candidate</b>    | <b>Average point total</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Julián Castro       | 14.19                      |
| Bernie Sanders      | 13.77                      |
| Kirsten Gillibrand  | 12.93                      |
| Bill de Blasio      | 10.51                      |
| John Delaney        | 10.07                      |
| Michael Bennet      | 9.94                       |
| Beto O'Rourke       | 9.21                       |
| Tulsi Gabbard       | 9.16                       |
| Amy Klobuchar       | 7.37                       |
| Jay Inslee          | 6.82                       |
| John Hickenlooper   | 6.53                       |
| Andrew Yang         | 6.00                       |
| Tim Ryan            | 5.04                       |
| Marianne Williamson | 4.53                       |

Union Settlement serves individuals not just from East Harlem, but also from surrounding communities, and the Democratic primary results were similar when the responses of those voters (165 total) were counted.

Among all likely Democratic voters polled, Biden led with 30.2% of the first-place votes, followed by Warren (22.0%), Sanders (19.5%) and Harris (14.5%), and then a wide gap to the remaining candidates. Based on average point totals, the top seven candidates, in order, were Biden (16.5 points), Harris (15.7 points), Booker (15.3 points), Warren (14.9 points) Buttigieg (14.7 points), Castro (14.2 points) and Sanders (13.9 points).

### **About Union Settlement**

Union Settlement is an on-the-ground resource for East Harlem residents of all ages, and a passionate advocate for the needs of underserved communities. Established in 1895, Union Settlement provides a broad array of education, wellness and community-building programs to over 10,000 East Harlem residents each year, including early childhood education, afterschool and summer youth programs, college preparation, job readiness, English language classes, behavioral health counseling, small business assistance, senior centers, Meals on Wheels and more.

Union Settlement works hard to solicit and amplify the voices of local residents. For example, every two years Union Settlement conducts a survey of the participants in its programs, including asking about the issues of most concern to them. In the most recent survey in 2018, the respondents indicated that their top concerns were improving schools, reducing crime, building more affordable housing, creating jobs, and providing affordable health care.

For more information about Union Settlement, visit [www.unionsettlement.org](http://www.unionsettlement.org).

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