

Now an article on Medium:

<https://medium.com/@rvby1/elizabeth-warren-and-bernie-sanders-are-more-different-than-you-might-think-292820939407>

Throughout this election cycle, I have seen many pundits and people equate Senator Sanders and Senator Warren as being the same or extremely similar. Many have even went as far as saying that Senator Warren is just a “female Bernie.” First, let me just say how awful it is to frame a woman and her accomplishments only in relation to a man’s achievements—and second, let me provide a non-comprehensive list of the many differences between Senator Sanders and Senator Warren.

When reading this list, please note that not every issue is necessarily as important as another issue. The importance of each problem will depend on your identities and lived experiences. That said, I believe everything on this list is at least worth considering in some respect.

Without further ado:

Healthcare

- **Warren** has been extremely wishy-washy on M4A. Before the debates, she co-sponsored Bernie’s M4A bill, but she [signed on to other healthcare bills that were non-M4A as well](#). In the first Democratic Debate, she stated that she was “with Bernie” and raised her hand to say that she would eliminate private insurance. However, [in interviews](#), she dodged questions about whether she really supports Bernie’s bill and said she was “open to many paths to M4A,” but many of the paths she listed would not lead to everyone being covered. She also actively avoided pledging to eliminate private insurance like she did at the first debate. Further, in the third debate, she did everything she could to [avoid answering the private insurance question](#). Her website also uses the term “insurers” (plural, see image below), which indicates that her plan will not eliminate private insurance. Recently, Warren has also called Bernie’s M4A bill a [“framework... that doesn’t have all the details”](#). Warren’s plan will not cover mental health treatment, and it’s unclear whether it will cover gender confirmation surgery. Her recently released plan to fund her healthcare plan uses an employer-side head tax, [which will disproportionately impact lower income folks and smaller businesses. It will also encourage companies to restructure in ways that will harm workers](#); [Bernie is for providing healthcare to ALL people](#), including undocumented folks, as a right, not as a privilege, expanding the benefits that medicare offers to include comprehensive dental, vision, and mental health care, and abolishing private insurance. Bernie has been honest about the rise to middle class taxes, but highlights that the increase will be greatly outweighed by cost savings.
- **Warren** has expressed no interest in cancelling medical debt; **Bernie** has [a policy](#) to do just that.

Climate Change

- **Warren**, despite being a co-sponsor, does not have the Green New Deal as part of [her policies](#) relating to climate change. Instead, she has adopted Inslee's plan, which is [weaker than the Green New Deal](#). She invests only 3.5 trillion into fighting the climate crisis. As part of this 3.5 trillion, she invests only 100 billion into helping developing nations transition to a green future and only a trillion into climate justice. [Her plan receives an A- from Greenpeace](#); **Bernie** has implemented the Green New Deal proposed by AOC and J. Markey, and [his plan](#) is the [strongest](#) and most wide-reaching of all candidates. Bernie invests 16.3 trillion into tackling the climate crisis. As part of this 16.3 trillion, Bernie invests 200 billion into helping developing nations transition to a green future and trillions into climate justice. [His plan is the only plan to receive an A+ from Greenpeace](#).
- **Warren** does *not* plan to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable; **Bernie** [holds the fossil fuel accountable for knowingly destroying the planet](#) as part of his Green New Deal.
- **Warren** stated she is against fracking, but this is not [reflected in her policy pages](#), and she has no stated position on mountaintop removal coal mining; **Bernie** [bans fracking and mountaintop removal coal mining](#) as part of his Green New Deal.
- **Warren** [was silent on the NoDAPL pipeline fight until after the Army Corps announced that it would not construct the pipeline](#); **Bernie** was an [active supporter of the NoDAPL pipeline fight from the beginning](#), making speeches and damnations of the exploitation of the earth and of native land.
- **Warren** [does not want to move utilities into the public sector and thinks that's "not the solution"](#); **Bernie** does as part of his [Green New Deal](#).

Education

- **Warren** has no K-12 plan and has [supported vouchers and charter schools](#); **Bernie** has the most extensive [K-12 education plan](#). It includes making public education more accessible for PoC and for students with disabilities, rebuilding crumbling schools, expanding after school programs, ensuring teachers make at least \$60,000 a year, setting aside funds for school supplies, and so forth. He will institute a moratorium on charter schools so that an investigation can be done on their effects. He is also against vouchers.
- **Warren** [is for](#) cutting \$50,000 of college debt for people making under \$100,000 a year and progressively less for those making between \$100,000 and \$250,000 a year. This will leave many, especially [black folk](#), with piles of debt; **Bernie** [is for](#) eliminating ALL student debt for everybody.

Economic System

- [Warren is a capitalist “to her bones” and primarily wants to “fix the market”](#) so that it will work for poor people again, but doesn't seem to realize that Capitalism will inherently lead to exploitation; **Bernie** is a Democratic Socialist who wants to transition us to public ownership of utilities and the healthcare system. He also wants to effectively give workers control over the means of production by making [unions more plentiful, powerful, and safer, putting workers on executive boards, and ensuring that workers own a portion of the companies they work at](#)
***note below
- [Warren gave Trump a standing ovation](#) when Trump announced that "America will never be a Socialist country;" **Bernie** didn't.

LGBT Rights

- [Warren was a Republican until 1996](#), which means she was a Republican during the AIDs crisis, and as a Republican, she worked against the social good of LGBT folk (and other oppressed groups). She has a hard time justifying and explaining the political positions [she took as a Republican](#), and [her story](#) of uninvolvedness seems to [contradict](#) stories her [colleagues tell](#); **Bernie** has been [fighting for LGBT rights](#) (and those of other oppressed groups) for [decades](#), even when it [wasn't](#) winning him much [support](#). Bernie's policies will also do more to address the inequality inside the inequality towards LGBT folk.
- **Warren** was firmly against state-funded gender-confirmation surgery in 2012, [stating that it was not a “good use of taxpayer dollars”](#); **Bernie** created a [“Trans Mecca”](#) where people in the LGBT community could feel safe and happy back in the 80s.
- **Warren** is [“open to” defining crimes against trans folk as a hate crime](#), but isn't sure that's the best idea; **Bernie** will have the [Department of Justice investigate any murder of trans folk as a serious hate crime](#).
- **Warren's** healthcare plan is 100% unclear on whether it covers gender-confirmation surgery. We know that Warren's plan does not cover mental health care even though [LGBT folk commit suicide at far higher rates than the rest of the population](#); **Bernie's** [plan does both](#).

Housing

- **Warren** wants to invest a \$500 billion to build some unspecified amount of affordable housing, but is [firmly against national rent control](#), which will inherently lead to rent prices increasing again. Her expansion of housing availability and affordability is also entirely insufficient, as pointed out by [housing advocates at the Iowa People's Presidential Forum](#). Warren wants to provide first-time home buying support and counseling only to specific individuals who were red-lined or segregated against *and* are still low-income; **Bernie** has detailed an [extensive housing](#)

[policy](#) that invests trillions into building the 7.4 million affordable housing units and 2 million mixed housing units we need, massively expanding Section 8 housing and funding programs for homeless folk, and creating first-time home buying support and counseling for all people. In addition, it establishes nation-wide rent control, and provides tenant protections like banning “at will” evictions. His plan aims to eliminate homelessness and housing inequity. [It is strongly supported by housing advocates.](#)

Campaign Finance & Political Corruption

- **Warren** is "against big money," but [seeded her campaign with big money](#), and has explicitly stated that she [will take big money again in the general election](#). She has recently [stated she would forego big money fundraisers during the general](#), but has still not stated she will forego big money itself or not take money from SuperPACs; **Bernie** will not take big money and is explicitly against taking big money for any of his campaigns.
- [Warren's plan](#) to tackle political corruption through her anti-corruption bill is good, but cracking down on conflicts of interest in the legislature is meaningless if politicians still receive millions in contributions from big corporations and tons of maxed out donations from rich donors. Warren's plan does nothing to address Citizens United and superPACs, which allows big money interests to pour millions in ‘dark money’ into campaigns; [Bernie's plan](#) aims to overturn Citizens United, abolish superPACs, end racist gerrymandering, restore the voting rights act, and more. Critically, his plan also publicly funds elections, which will level the playing field for candidates and encourage new faces to enter politics. [His plan also bans lobbying and conflicts of interests.](#)
- **Warren** got endorsed by the Working Family Party (WFP), but only after [a think tank that her daughter chairs donated \\$45,000 to the WFP](#), though it's absolutely possible that this donation was not made to buy Warren's endorsement. That said, the WFP [refused to release bulk voting data even though they did without incidence in 2016](#); Given the WFP's sound endorsement of Bernie in 2016 and the WFP's unwillingness to release bulk data, it's likely that **Bernie** was [voted for the endorsement by the members of the WFP](#).
- **Warren** is [headlining DNC fundraisers](#), and she has been [having meetings with Hillary](#), showing that she is cozy with the DNC establishment; **Bernie** has not and is firmly against getting cozy with the establishment.

Foreign Policy

- **Warren** is a war hawk; **Bernie** is not. See [this article](#) and [this article](#).
 - **Warren** voted for Trump's military budgets; **Bernie** did not.
 - **Warren** supports economic sanctions against Venezuela (she said she didn't, then said she did); **Bernie** does not. These respiration have led to thousands of deaths.

- **Warren** seems to have no interest in ending the Korean war and finding peace with N. Korea; **Bernie** does.
 - **Warren** has [mostly supported Israel](#); **Bernie** supports Palestine.
 - **Warren** views our military might as critically important, wants to expand our military power, and votes to expand it; **Bernie** wants to cut our military spending and, instead, spend that money on other issues.
- **Warren** has no plans for leveraging aid to Israel; **Bernie** [has](#) detailed a position of leveraging the aid we provide to Israel to push them towards more helpful solutions.

Workers Rights

- **Warren** has [a plan](#) to put workers on the boards in businesses, but her plan only requires 40% of the board to be made of workers. Since this is less than a majority, the workers can effectively just be ignored by the executives, which means that this plan will have little to no benefit. A more radical version of co-determination is a good idea, but it's worthless without an accompanying union. It just makes a small handful of workers the 'shield' for the rest of the workers. If a worker member on the board speaks up, they'll just be reprimanded and lose benefits; **Bernie** has an [extensive plan](#) that makes joining and staying in unions easier, simpler, and safer. It also provides more power to unions while making the job of unions easier. Further, **Bernie** has [a plan](#) that requires 45% of the board be made of workers (which still isn't a majority, but will be powerful with an accompanying union). This plan will also ensure that workers own a portion of the company by requiring 2% of shares each year to be put into a worker controlled fund until at least 20% of the company is owned by the employees, after which point dividends will be paid to the workers; to ensure these stocks aren't just bought back, the plan bans stock buybacks. In addition, it makes it so employees can buy their business if it closes, goes overseas, or is for sale, and establishes a bank to give low-interest loans to employees for purchasing these businesses.
- **Warren** has [a plan](#) for breaking up Big Tech; **Bernie** has [a plan](#) to prevent major mergers from happening by re-establishing FTC rules that prevented mergers if the merged business's market share would be too large. His plan will also retroactively review all mergers that occurred under the Trump administration and appoint new members to the FTC.
- **Warren** has no stated plan to rollback the corporate tax cuts, though she probably will; **Bernie** has an [explicit plan](#) to roll back the corporate tax cuts. He will also expand corporate taxes to apply to income earned overseas so that businesses cannot escape taxes by misclassifying income as "earned abroad". The plan also reduces the potential deductions for pass-throughs, which are used by businesses to hide their true income.
- **Warren** is [not paying all of her staff \\$15 an hour](#). Further, even though [her staff has been trying to sign a union contract for 4 months](#), one has not yet been created despite Warren "supporting them unionizing"; **Bernie** has [allowed and encouraged his staff to unionize, has actively negotiated with his union, and pays all of his staff at least \\$15 an hour](#), if not more. His campaign

is the ONLY campaign that has actually signed a union contract (but note the immense bad publicity around everything not being immediately perfect).

- **Warren** claimed to stand with the Culinary Union protests, but [her staff has repeatedly crossed picket lines to stay at the properties where the protests were occurring](#); **Bernie** stood in solidarity with the union protestors, and [his staff have not crossed the picket lines](#).
- **Warren** has no plans to change the 40 hour work week; **Bernie** has stated [he'd consider shifting us towards a 32 hour work week while maintaining a 40 hour work week](#).

Criminal Justice

- **Warren** [does not support letting](#) those in prison vote; **Bernie** [does](#). As [Jamelle Bouie](#) writes in the NYT, enfranchising incarcerated folk will have an incredible effect on tackling racial disparities in political participation because black folks are disproportionately imprisoned. It will also give prisoners the power to directly bring about change in their conditions.
- **Warren** wants to [increase funding to “co-responder” initiatives](#) to connect police with mental health experts, but this will not remove police from situations like mental health crisis where [police often kill victims](#). It also does not free police to focus on more serious problems; **Bernie** wants to [create a “civilian corps of unarmed first responders](#), such as social workers, EMTs, and trained mental health professionals, who can handle order maintenance violations, mental health emergencies, and low-level conflicts outside the criminal justice system, freeing police officers to concentrate on the most serious crimes.”
- **Warren** wants to fund [indigent defense more](#), but doesn't give any solid numbers on how much she will fund them; **Bernie** will [triple the funding for indigent defense to 14 billion](#).
- **Warren** has no stated plans to expand the compassionate release process, which allows elderly and disabled people to be released from prison; **Bernie** wants to [expand it](#).
- **Warren** has no stated plans to ensure that funds from marijuana are invested in the communities hit hardest by the war on drugs; **Bernie** [does](#).
- **Warren** wants to [expand the availability of buprenorphine](#), which helps treat opioid addiction, to first responders, but does not decriminalize possession of it; **Bernie** [does](#). He also calls for ensuring first responders carry naloxone to treat overdoses.
- **Warren** wants to [expand the presence of mental health support in schools](#), but doesn't give any solid numbers on how much she will fund this; **Bernie** will [provide \\$5 billion every year to expand mental health support in schools](#).
- **Warren** has no stated plans to end restraint and seclusion punishment in schools; **Bernie** [does](#).

- **Warren** has no stated plan to ensure prisoners are paid fairly for their labor; **Bernie** will [ensure that they are paid a fair wage and face fair work conditions, including maximum hours per week.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plans to end prison gerrymandering, which occurs when prison populations are counted as part of the district they are incarcerated in order to minimize representation of individuals in that district; **Bernie** will [ensure incarcerated folk are counted in their communities, not where they are incarcerated.](#)
- **Warren** supports [eliminating costs associated with “essential services” like making calls;](#) **Bernie** also supports this, but goes further by also [allowing unlimited visits, phone calls, and video calls.](#)
- **Warren** calls for an [end to solitary confinement,](#) but then states she will [only ensure incarcerated folk are not confined for more than 20 hours;](#) **Bernie** supports a [total ban of solitary confinement for any period of time.](#)
- **Warren** [supports removing legal and regulatory barriers that prevent incarcerated folk from returning to regular life;](#) **Bernie** also supports this, but goes further by [banning questions about criminal history from all applications.](#)
- **Warren** supports [providing funding to end the national rape kit backlog;](#) **Bernie** also [supports this,](#) but goes further by [instituting new regulations to ensure all new kits are tested and that survivors are provided updates on the status of their rape kits.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plans to reverse Betsy DeVos’ decision to weaken Title IX protection; **Bernie** will [reverse the decision and ensure Title IX’s strict enforcement.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plans to change the way that sex trafficking survivors are treated; **Bernie** supports [“safe harbor” policies that treat trafficked people as survivors rather than criminals and provides them with legal and financial support.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plan to provide non-police intervention for domestic violence; **Bernie** [will create a national help hotline and ensure state-funded, long-term counseling is available for those who need it.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plans to ban criminal charges for behavior in school that would otherwise not be criminal; **Bernie** [does.](#)
- **Warren** has no stated plans to provide alternatives to prison and court systems for disabled individuals; **Bernie** will [expand diversion programs as an alternative to prison and court systems for disabled individuals.](#) He will also ensure these individuals have community-based supports and services that they need to prevent crime.

Immigration Reform

- **Warren** has not come out in favor of a moratorium on deportations; **Bernie** [has](#).

Political Problems & Miscellaneous

- **Warren** claimed she was Cherokee even though her family was just colonizers, and though [she apologized to the chief of the Cherokee Nation, it was private and quite lackluster](#). Many Native Americans are entirely unsatisfied with her apology. Further, Warren claimed that she learned of this history from her family, but she only [began to claim she was “American Indian \[sic\]”](#) at the height of affirmative action. Prior to this, [she consistently identified as white](#). We also know that [Harvard University lauded her as their first Professor of Color](#), which likely means she was hired due to her false claim. Note that it is *possible*, albeit unlikely, that she considered herself multiracial and just jumped between identities. This doesn’t seem to line up with [the story she tells](#) about her parents saying she was Native as a child, however; **Bernie**... didn’t.
- **Warren** had the choice of endorsing Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders in the 2016 primary election. Despite claiming to stand more in line with Bernie’s viewpoints, [Warren endorsed Hillary](#); **Bernie**... didn’t.
- **Warren** does [not have a strong grassroots movement behind her](#), so like Obama before her, she will have a hard to impossible time getting any of her policies passed; **Bernie** has always emphasized that [his campaign is about “not me, us.”](#) He knows that just getting into office won’t make these problems go away. Throughout his political campaigns, he has pushed for people to become [involved in politics](#), and as a result, he has [the largest grassroots movement](#) of any candidate by far.
- **Warren** has [relatively little support](#) aside from [well-off, old, white Democrats](#); **Bernie** has support from independents and Republicans. He also has [massive support from young people and PoC](#). This diverse base is required to win the general. See [this article](#) and [this poll](#).
- **Warren** has strong support from mainstream media and centrist organizations like the [Human Rights Campaign](#) and think tanks [like third-way](#); **Bernie** [does not](#) and [constantly earns their ire](#) because he [questions the status quo](#) that keeps their investors rich.
- **Warren** [voted to confirm Ben Carson](#), a racist, sexist, homophobe with no experience, as the Housing and Urban Development secretary; **Bernie** [voted against Ben Carson’s confirmation](#).
- **Warren** supports [totally eliminating the filibuster](#), which would [create a tyranny of the majority by letting majority party to pass any legislation they want](#). With a progressive majority, this would be fantastic—but if a conservative majority took over, the progressive minority would have no way to fight back until the next election cycle; **Bernie** supports [returning us to a talking filibuster](#). Under a talking filibuster, a candidate must be on the floor speaking in order to

filibuster. Speaking for hours requires an immense amount of energy and dedication, so the minority party will only filibuster if they care deeply about an issue, and they can only do so for so long. Further, by speaking for hours, the minority party not only expresses their perspective and dissent, but may convince the majority party to make concessions.

I can promise that this list could go on more, but these are the major points I have at the moment.

For me, these differences make it clear that Bernie Sanders is by far the best candidate for all the people in America. If you feel the same way, I encourage you to volunteer for Senator Sanders's campaign! You can canvas, send text messages (great for folks with social anxiety like myself!), make calls, and more. We need everyone to provide the time and skills they have if we are going to win this. Sign up to volunteer [here](#)!

*****Note:** Bernie's current policies will transition us to a system of Social Democracy, not a system of Democratic Socialism. As stated, they will effectively give workers power over the means of production, will drastically lower inequality, etc., **but** the means of production for many organizations will still technically be owned by Capitalists, and this will lead to some inherent level of exploitation.

However, I do think that Bernie is a Socialist. [He was a part of the Young People's Socialist League in college and later a member of the anti-Capitalist Liberty Union Party](#). He even ran as a Liberty Union Candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in his first run for office. Bernie is also a huge fan of "Eugene V. Debs, the founder of the Social Democratic Party of America who ran five times on the socialist ticket for president in the early 20th century."

If he is one, why run on policies that won't move us to a system of Democratic Socialism? I think he realized that it's extremely difficult to jump to a system of Democratic Socialism via reform unless you first move to a system of Social Democracy. But I firmly believe that Bernie is truly a Democratic Socialist at heart.

Even if he isn't one, Bernie still acknowledges a disdain for Capitalism as a system by taking on the Democratic Socialist label. Warren chooses to actively endorse and defend Capitalism, a system of inherent exploitation.