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U.S. will look at sudden acceleration complaints involving 500,000 Tesla vehicles



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Wall Street falls as China virus reaches the U.S.



A worker in a protective suit is seen at the closed seafood market in Wuhan

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street lost ground on Tuesday, backing away from record highs as a viral outbreak from China found its way to U.S. shores and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered its global economic growth forecast.

All three major U.S. stock averages fell following several days of record closing highs and their best one-week advance in months.

The indexes extended their losses after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first U.S. case of the coronavirus, which has now killed six people in China.

"We're seeing headline risk introduced to the market and any time there's new uncertainties, we see more volatility and flight to quality and investors fleeing risk assets," said Charlie Ripley, senior market strategist for Allianz Investment Management in Minneapolis.

"Today's news around the coronavirus is a reminder that risks remain, and it's something that investors will be paying attention to in the coming weeks and months," Ripley added.

With the outbreak occurring just before the Chinese lunar new year, the news hit travel-related stocks the hardest.

The NYSE Arca Airline index .XAL dropped 2.8%.

United Airlines (UAL.O) fell by 4.4%, while Carnival Corp (CCL.N) dipped 2.3%.

Hotel and casino operators Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS.N) and Wynn Resorts Ltd (WYNN.O), both of which have sizable operations in China, ended the session down 5.4% and 6.1%, respectively.

Steel stocks, which have a sizable exposure to China, also fell. United States Steel Corp (X.N) was down 5.2%.

Boeing Co (BA.N) weighed heaviest on the blue-chip Dow, its shares falling 3.3% following reports the planemaker's 737 MAX might not win approval to return to service until June or July.

In other news, the IMF trimmed its global economic growth forecasts for 2020 and 2021, with Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva citing lasting effects from the bruising U.S.-China trade war and sharper-than-expected slowdowns in India and other emerging markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI fell 152.06 points, or 0.52%, to 29,196.04, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 8.82 points, or 0.26%, to 3,320.8 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC dropped 18.14 points, or 0.19%, to 9,370.81.

Of the 11 major sectors in the S&P 500 seven ended the session in the red, with energy .SPNY, industrials .SPLRCI, and materials .SPLRCM suffering the largest percentage drops.

Real estate .SPLRCR led the gainers.

Fourth-quarter earnings season continues apace, with 46 of the companies in the S&P 500 having reported. Of those, 71.7% have beaten analyst expectations.

Members-only chain store Costco Wholesale Corp (COST.O) advanced 2.8% after Oppenheimer upgraded the shares to "outperform."

Intel Corp (INTC.O) gained 1.6% after three brokers raised their price targets for the chipmaker's shares.

Electric automaker Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) rose 7.2% after new Street Research hiked its price target to \$800 per share.

Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) shares fell more than 1% in after-hours trading after posting fourth-quarter results.

International Business Machines Corp (IBM.N) rose more than 4% after the bell after reporting a surprise revenue increase on cloud growth.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 1.56-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.59-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

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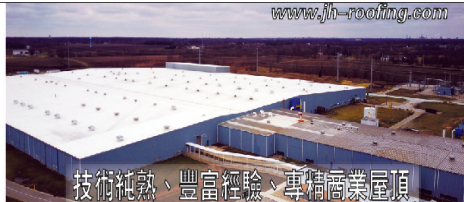
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Exclusive: Apple dropped plan for encrypting backups after FBI complained - sources

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Apple Inc (AAPL.O) dropped plans to let iPhone users fully encrypt backups of their devices in the company's iCloud service after the FBI complained that the move would harm investigations, six sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The tech giant's reversal, about two years ago, has not previously been reported. It shows how much Apple has been willing to help U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies, despite taking a harder line in high-profile legal disputes with the government and casting itself as a defender of its customers' information.

The long-running tug of war between investigators' concerns about security and tech companies' desire for user privacy moved back into the public spotlight last week, as U.S. Attorney General William Barr took the rare step of publicly calling on Apple to unlock two iPhones used by a Saudi Air Force officer who shot dead three Americans at a Pensacola, Florida naval base last month.

U.S. President Donald Trump piled on, accusing Apple on Twitter of refusing to unlock phones used by "killers, drug dealers and other violent criminal elements." Republican and Democratic senators sounded a similar theme in a December hearing, threatening legislation against end-to-end encryption, citing unrecoverable evidence of crimes against children.

Apple did in fact did turn over the shooter's iCloud backups in the Pensacola case, and said it rejected the characterization that it "has not provided substantive assistance."

Behind the scenes, Apple has provided the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation with more sweeping help, not related to any specific probe.

An Apple spokesman declined to comment on the company's handling of the encryption issue or any discussions it has had with the FBI. The FBI did not respond to requests for comment on any discussions with Apple.

More than two years ago, Apple told the FBI that it planned to



offer users end-to-end encryption when storing their phone data on iCloud, according to one current and three former FBI officials and one current and one former Apple employee.

Under that plan, primarily designed to thwart hackers, Apple would no longer have a key to unlock the encrypted data, meaning it would not be able to turn material over to

authorities in a readable form even under court order.

In private talks with Apple soon after, representatives of the FBI's cyber crime agents and its operational technology division objected to the plan, arguing it would deny them the most effective means for gaining evidence against iPhone-using suspects, the government sources said.

FILE PHOTO: A woman uses her Apple iPhone and laptop in a cafe in lower Manhattan in New York City, U.S., May 8, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar/File Photo

When Apple spoke privately to the FBI about its work on phone security the following year, the end-to-end encryption plan had been dropped, according to the six sources. Reuters could not determine why exactly Apple dropped the plan.



归侨作曲家谷建芬：70余年爱国情 40余年音乐路

1941年的某一天，一对在日本大阪谋生的夫妇，乘坐轮船回到他们的家乡中国。6岁的小女儿也随他们回来，只是彼时她还不知道，回国到底意味着什么。

小女孩从小就展现出过人的音乐天赋，后来她成为了一名作曲家，她的作品《年轻的朋友来相会》《烛光里的妈妈》《今天是你的生日》《绿叶对根的情意》《滚滚长江东逝水》享誉海内外。

她就是著名归侨作曲家谷建芬。日前，她入选“2019全球华侨华人年度人物”，她说，自己写的歌能给华侨华人带去力量，她很开心。在她心中，那句“听你的歌长大”，就是对她最大的奖赏。

有音乐陪伴的童年

谷建芬的父母是从山东威海到日本谋生的，6岁时，她随家人返回中国，定居大连。而在日本的这6年，也种下了她在音乐上的根。

日本人注重音乐教育，大多从母亲怀孕时就开始了。谷建芬现在还記得，小时候起床，妈妈一定要放音乐，不放音乐她就不会醒。她心里委屈了，也会跑到平台上一边唱歌一边哭。有音乐在，她就好像有了撒气的地方。

就这样，她在音乐的陪伴下一天天长大。父母对她显露出的音乐天赋也持支持态度，父亲给她买回了一台低价出售的钢琴，她非常高兴，不会弹就自己学，每日与钢琴为伴。

回到大连，她也是学校里音乐方面比较突出的一个，同学们唱校歌，她就在旁边弹钢琴。

1950年，谷建芬考入旅大文工团，担任钢琴伴奏，还写出了自己的第一首歌曲《白米饭》。1952年，她进入东北鲁迅文艺学院(现沈阳音乐学院)学习作曲。

读书时，担任校长的著名作曲家李劫夫曾对谷建芬说，如果脑子里没有几百首民歌垫底，是写不好曲子的。谷建芬从此记住了这句话，这也给她以后的



作品打下深深的烙印。

所以，相比各种荣誉和名声，她更看重老百姓的评价。走在路上，很多人对她说“谷老师，我听你的歌长大”，在她心里，这就是对她最大的奖赏。

开风气之先：写流行歌、开培训班

上世纪80年代，改革开放之风吹向神州大地，音乐也破风气之先，谷建芬写出了那首著名的《年轻的朋友来相会》。后来，她又陆续写出了《绿叶对根的情意》《今天是你的生日》《我是中国人》等，此外还创办培训班，培养出毛阿敏、那英、刘欢、孙楠等众多歌唱人才。

不过，谷建芬的艺术之路也并非一路平坦。《年轻的朋友来相会》刚面世时，曾遭受诸多争议。创办培训班时，她四处筹钱，条件艰苦，有的学生只能住在地下室。

但谷建芬心里憋着一口气，一定要把他们教好。第一批9个学生，她量体裁衣，一个一个教。哪个学生成才了就走，她再教下一个。

学生们也不负众望，1986年，苏红获得CCTV第二届青年歌手电视大奖赛专业组通俗一等奖，一下子就把“谷家班”的名声打了出去。紧接着，李杰、孙楠、那英、毛阿敏也唱了出来，“谷家班”一时成为拿奖专业户。

“困难变成力量，力量变成幸福。”谷建芬说，她很感谢以前所经历的种种困难，这些都给了她无穷的力量。

在创作上也是如此，写《三国演义》主题曲《滚滚长江东逝水》时，有领导认为：“《三国演义》都是爷们儿的东西，不能找个女的写。”听了这话，谷建芬很生气，回去就把写好的部分重写，把开头较缓慢的部分改得更气势

有了这次实验，谷建芬觉得很有希望推广开来。然而，她从小在日本长大，对于中国古代的文化和艺术了解不多，为此她专门找了一些专家给她讲解诗词。所以创作的过程较为缓慢，3个月写一首，12年的时间，总共写了50首。

第一次录《游子吟》时，听着孩子们唱“慈母手中线，游子身上衣”的清脆声音，谷建芬和在场的人都感动地落泪。

谷建芬已经80多岁了，但她说，《新学堂歌》不是50首就完了，她还要继续写，不光写汉族的，还要写各个民族的，让孩子们通过音乐了解中国的文化和历史。

现在不叫唱歌，叫说歌

除了给孩子们写歌，谷建芬还一直关注音乐版权的发展。在担任全国人大常委会委员期间，她最多的发言，就是呼吁保护著作权。这些年来，人们的版权意识逐渐增强，但在谷建芬看来，做的还不够。她经常能看到，电视上有人演唱或改编她的歌，但没有得到授权。

“改编的人可能比我智商还高，但是你要在我授权的基础上改编，这才可以。”她说，再大的腕儿也得授权，尤其年轻人，版权的保护意识应该提高。

对于当下的音乐现状，谷建芬也有自己的思考，她总结为，“现在不叫唱歌，叫说歌”，因为没有旋律。在她看来，这样的音乐创作太危险。而没有旋律，没有好作品，再有一天赋或技巧的歌手也无从发挥。

不过，她也知道，年轻一代有自己的理念和审美观，所以她只希望他们能热爱音乐事业，把音乐作为心灵的感叹唱出来。

而她自己的希望是，再写个20年。1980年，她曾写下一首《年轻的朋友来相会》。之后又写了《二十年后相会》，今年又创作了《再次相约二十年》。

谷建芬笑着说，为了这首歌，她也争取活到104岁。

Editor's Choice



Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg leaves after U.S. President Donald Trump's speech at the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump listens to FIFA President Gianni Infantino speak during a dinner with global CEOs during the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Soldiers take part in the rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India, India, January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Tennis - Australian Open - First Round - Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia - January 21, 2020. France's Alize Cornet during her match against Romania's Monica Niculescu REUTERS/ Kim Hong-Ji TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg leaves after U.S. President Donald Trump's speech at the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



New construction surrounds the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule atop a Falcon 9 booster rocket on historic Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral

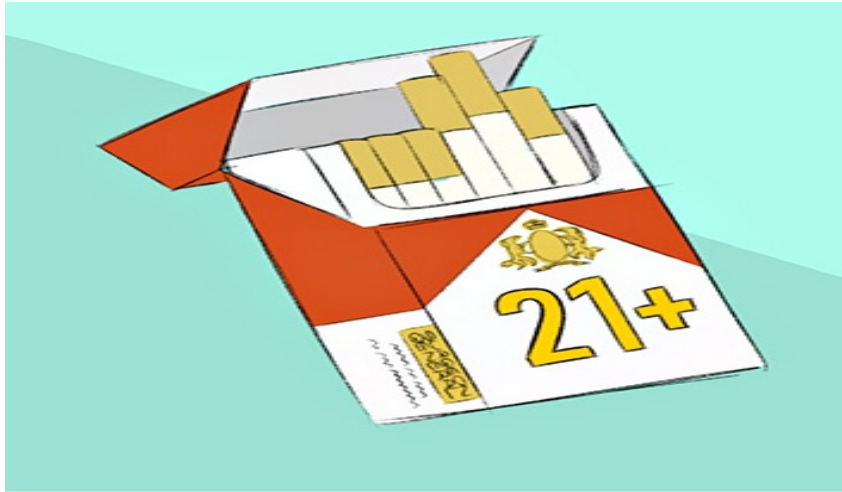


Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren laughs with fellow Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders during the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day festivities in Columbia



A child lies on the ground as migrants, part of a caravan travelling to the U.S., walk on a road near the border between Guatemala and Mexico, in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico January 20, 2020. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

The U.S. Officially Raises The Tobacco Buying Age To 21



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(CNN) A new law in the United States that prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 is now in effect, according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

Last week, President Donald Trump signed the new minimum age into law as part of a sweeping spending bill. On Friday, the FDA noted on its website that “it is now illegal for a retailer to sell any tobacco product -- including cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes -- to anyone under 21. FDA will provide additional details on this issue as they become available.”

The increased age restriction for tobacco purchases is one of several provisions outside of the spending measures themselves attached to the broader \$1.4 trillion spending agreement.

Trump tweeted last week that the spending agreement “raises smoking age to 21! BIG!” -- marking the change as one of its highlights.

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump
I will be signing our 738 Billion Dollar Defense Spending Bill today. It will include 12 weeks Paid Parental Leave, gives our troops a raise, importantly creates the SPACE FORCE,

SOUTHERN BORDER WALL FUNDING, repeals “Cadillac Tax” on Health Plans, raises smoking age to 21! BIG! 173K

8:19 AM - Dec 20, 2019

Twitter Ads info and privacy

The restriction on tobacco sales has long been pushed by a bipartisan mix of senators: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican; Republican Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah and Todd Young of Indiana; as well as Democrats including Sens. Richard Durbin of Illinois, Tim Kaine of Virginia and Brian Schatz of Hawaii.

The measure to raise legal age for tobacco sales to 21 was among provisions attached to spending bills.

Those lawmakers have been looking for a way to get the prohibition across the finish line and now they’ve found one, by attaching it to a must-pass series of bills to avoid a government shutdown.

Raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products in the United States from 18 to



21 marks a major public health achievement for the White House. There already have been several states that have individually passed legislation to raise the tobacco-buying age to 21.

States that have already passed the minimum age

As of December, 19 states have raised the minimum age to buy tobacco products to 21, according to the nonprofit Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. Washington, DC, and more than 500 cities and towns also have raised the age.



Trump had previously spoken in favor of raising the age limit to buy tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vape products, to 21.

“We have to take care of our kids, most importantly, so we’re going to have an age limit of 21 or so, so we’ll be coming out with something next week very important on vaping,” Trump said while standing outside of the White House in November.

In September, Trump said that the US Food and Drug Administration would put out “some very strong recommendations” regarding the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. At the time, Trump administration officials said the agency would remove all non-tobacco-flavored vaping products from the market.

The announcement came amid continued

concerns about rising levels of youth vaping and a mysterious outbreak of vaping-related lung injuries.



Health organizations have pressured the administration to ban flavors, which are popular among young people. Vaping advocates have argued they’re a tool for adult smokers to quit combustible cigarettes. Vape shop owners have argued that limits on sales of flavors would destroy their businesses.

The new provision in the spending bill could be seen by some as the president’s response to the youth vaping epidemic. Vaping remained popular among teens across the United States in 2019.

The latest report from a federal survey, called Monitoring the Future, found that 1 in 4 12th graders, 1 in 5 10th graders and nearly 1 in 10 8th graders say that they have vaped nicotine in the past month.

Vaping-related lung injuries surpass 2,500 cases nationwide, the CDC reports

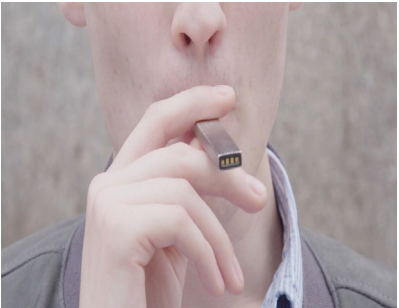
Advocates want more from the White House to curb youth vaping

“We applaud congressional efforts to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 and urge the President to sign this bill. The Vapor Technology Association has advocated for raising the age to 21 for all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, and believes, along with the public health groups, that this is the most significant step that can be taken to reduce youth access and use,” Tony Abboud, executive director of the

Vapor Technology Association, said in an emailed statement.

“VTA stands ready to continue working with Congress on the many real solutions (rather than a misguided flavor ban agenda), that should be implemented to achieve the twin goals of restricting youth vaping and preserving flavored vapor as an alternative for adults desperately trying to quit smoking,” Abboud’s statement said.

Yet many health and parent organizations have called on the President to do more than raise the legal tobacco-buying age. Last week, Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a written statement that raising the federal tobacco age to 21 without also prohibiting flavored e-cigarettes will not stop the youth e-cigarette epidemic.



“Raising the tobacco age to 21 is a positive step, but it is not a substitute for prohibiting the flavored e-cigarettes that are luring and addicting our kids,” Myers said in part.

“To reverse the e-cigarette epidemic, policy makers must prohibit flavored e-cigarettes and cannot be limited by what the tobacco industry says is acceptable,” Myers’ statement said. “The evidence is clear that flavored e-cigarettes are driving the youth epidemic. Most youth e-cigarette users use flavored products and cite flavors as a key reason for their use. As long as flavored e-cigarettes remain available, kids will find ways to get them and this epidemic will continue.” (Courtesy cnn.com)

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**China Is A Challenge For
The 2020 Candidates**



Photo Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios.
(Photos/Getty Images/AFP via Getty Images)

OVERVIEW

While the 2020 U.S. presidential candidates view China as a national security challenge, as a group they come up short on specific details on how they would address the economic, technological and human rights issues presented by the world's largest authoritarian power.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Most U.S. presidential candidates identify China as a serious national security challenge, but they're short on details as to how they'd tackle the economic, technological and human rights threats posed by the world's largest authoritarian power.

Why it matters: The Chinese Communist Party is seeking to reshape the world in its own image and amass enough power to marginalize the United States and Western allies regardless of whether China is contending with President Trump for another four years — or one of his Democratic rivals.

Details: Under Xi Jinping, China is leveraging economic ties as one of the world's top traders to counter U.S. foreign policy goals.

•It's setting global standards in telecommunications and surveillance technology, giving Beijing far-reaching power over data and privacy.



•It's weakening human rights standards. In October, after ambassadors from 23 UN countries backed a statement denouncing the cultural genocide in Xinjiang, 54 countries came to China's defense.

•China constrains free speech even inside the United States. It has successfully muted criticism of its policies among leading U.S. companies, institutions and even Hollywood.

Trump has alternated between confronting and appeasing Beijing.

•He's demanded that Beijing adopt trade policies that reduce the U.S. trade deficit with China and support U.S. manufacturing.

•He's filled his administration with China hawks, and the FBI is taking on Chinese intellectual property theft at U.S. institutions.

•But Trump has also pursued policies that give China a competitive edge in Asia and elsewhere, and he shied away from condemning human rights violations.



What they're saying: The Democratic presidential candidates have mostly argued that strengthening American democracy at home and recommitting to allies abroad is the best way to respond to China, while rejecting the administration's approach. But they've largely stuck to vague pronouncements rather than enumerating specific policies.

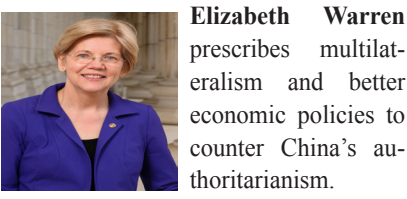


Joe Biden wants to restore a pre-Trump traditionalist foreign policy.

•Biden's July foreign policy speech focused largely on reversing what he considers the foreign policy mistakes of the Trump era. He has advocated shifting naval power to Asia.

•His plans represent a traditionalist foreign policy paradigm, where U.S. pronouncements, supported by allies and military power, change the behavior of state and non-state actors. He wants U.S. technology companies to make "pledges" to uphold ethics and privacy in business with China.

Elizabeth Warren prescribes multilateralism and better economic policies to counter China's authoritarianism.



•As a senator, Warren has signed her name to numerous letters calling out China's human rights violations and attempts to curtail criticism in U.S. media and academia. But as a candidate, she rarely talks about China.

•"Elizabeth favors a strategy of engagement with China where our interests align, including on critical security issues like climate change and counter-proliferation," a Warren campaign spokesperson told Axios in a statement. "But she will not hesitate to push back in areas where we disagree, including China's growing human rights abuses, unfair economic practices that harm American workers, and efforts to undermine global norms."

Pete Buttigieg characterizes the nature of the China challenge as the "international expansion of authoritarian capitalism."

•Buttigieg has identified political interference, proxy wars, cyberattacks, and the potential weaponization of economic and technological interdependence as among China's most troubling tools of wielding influence.

•But his proposals tend to be vague: maintain a strong military, strengthen American society and "invest in strategies to deal with less overt threats," without detailing those strategies.



Andrew Yang is a one-issue candidate when it comes to China: technology.

•"The world order in the 21st century will be defined by the relationship between the United States and China around technology, from artificial intelligence (AI) and data, to quantum computing and 5G technologies," Yang's campaign told Axios in a statement.

•When asked about China in the Dec. 19 debate, his approach was to "build an international coalition to set technology standards, and then you can bring the Chinese to the table in a very real way, because this is their top priority, and this is where we need to outcompete them and win."

Bernie Sanders has said it is "absolutely possible for us to have a positive working relationship with China," and he has detailed plans to revamp the U.S.-China economic relationship to improve the lives of American workers.



•Sanders said China has "more progress in addressing extreme poverty than any country in the history of civilization."

•But he's acknowledged China's turn toward authoritarianism, enshrined human rights as a pillar of his foreign policy and supported measures to restrict China's military buildup.

Michael Bloomberg has praised top Chinese officials and pressed for engagement with China.

•Bloomberg has extensive business interests in China that could potentially pose major conflicts of interest if he became U.S. president, while his representatives say he will call out China on human rights violations and other abuses.



•He has said that President Xi is "not a dictator" and has referred to Chinese nationals as Xi's "constituents."

•"China's systemic trade violations, including the theft of U.S. intellectual property and other anti-competitive practices, harm millions of American workers and would be a top priority of a Bloomberg administration," his campaign told Axios. (Courtesy Axios.com)



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HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

The Houston Independent School District located in the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center at 4400 West 18th Street Houston, Texas 77092 will accept proposals, until the stated date and time deadlines, in the Board Services Office, Level C1

- Project 20-01-01 – RFP/ Electronic Disposal and Recycling Services – with a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be in Conference Room 2E06 at the above stated address on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Project 20-01-04 – RFP / Dairy Products – with a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be in Conference Room 2C16 at the above stated address on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.
- Project 20-01-05 – RFP / Fresh Juice – with a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be in Conference Room 2C16 at the above stated address on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.
- Project 20-01-02 RFP/ Compensation Study Services – with a deadline of 10:00 a.m., on February 20, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be held in Conference Room 2C16 at the above stated address on January 22, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

The solicitation for bids is available on the HISD web-site at www.houstonisd.org . To access, go to **Departments, Purchasing Services**, Bid Opportunities. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or, to accept the proposal that is most advantageous to the District.

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