

Tom Steyer's Response to the Action For Opportunity Survey

- 1. What are the top five specific ways that you, as President, would increase economic opportunity for low-income Americans and decrease poverty, hunger, and homelessness?**

Long term fair and fortified growth depends on a just economy. We live in the richest country on earth, but fewer and fewer people are able to climb out of poverty and live their American dream. While CEO pay has skyrocketed, workers' pay has stagnated even while productivity keeps going up. High employment doesn't help if jobs don't pay enough to live on.

My People Over Profits Economic Agenda recognizes that American economic productivity and sustained economic growth is rooted in the health and welfare of its workers. Unchecked capitalism takes away workers' healthcare, dismantles pension programs, and curtails workplace protections — hard fought workplace victories that must be built upon, not reversed. The principles embodied in my agenda measure the true value of our economy not in dollars and cents, but in the strength of our communities and the improvements to the quality of life of our people. By investing in people, we open the doors of economic mobility, create new pathways for long-term growth, and underwrite America's future economic stability. The social safety net is critical to helping people in poverty or on its brink, but it will take a concentrated and sustained effort by the Federal government to end endemic poverty across America.

I will:

- Fight for a federal \$15/hr minimum wage: every worker deserves to make a minimum wage of \$15 per hour, including tipped workers and workers with disabilities, and indexing it to inflation moving forward
- Support and help to refine Congressman Clyburn's (D-SC) 10-20-30 Plan which directs 10% of funding for certain Federal programs to geographic areas where 20% of the population has been below the poverty line for more than 30 years; amend the proposed rule to target census tracts, rather than counties, to account for persistent low income pockets within wealthier counties
- Reverse the damage done by the Trump Administration to ensure access to SNAP benefits and automatic access to free or reduced school lunch programs for the quarter of rural American children growing up in poverty

- Support individuals and families with a quarterly tax credit to directly help low-income and middle-income families for rental payment assistance or to save for a down payment on a home mortgage, in addition to expanding the earned income tax credit
- Many Americans are stuck in an inequitable health care system that leaves 28.3 million people unable to afford insurance and tens of millions more for whom health care costs eat up much of their paychecks. Every week, older Americans make the tough choice to pay rent or take their medications. My public healthcare option will compete aggressively with the insurance companies to drive down costs, expand coverage, and deliver quality health care. I will work to reduce prescription drug costs, increase system accountability, eliminate surprise billing, and put patients and doctors — not the drug manufacturers or insurers — in charge of their health care.

In addition, housing is at the center of inequality in our country, because it determines so many other things in our lives. Far too many families struggle to find safe, affordable housing. Housing is a basic human need and the federal government needs to do everything in its power to mitigate evictions and keep people in their homes. I will ban landlords and rental agencies from discriminating against applicants based upon the source of their income or history of bankruptcy, if they demonstrate current cash flow and stability requirements for occupancy.

2. What is your single greatest concrete career accomplishment to date that has increased economic opportunity for low-income Americans and/or decreased poverty, hunger, and homelessness?

My dedication to public service is greatly inspired by my wife, Kat, the co-CEO of Beneficial State Bank in Oakland. When Wall Street banks took advantage of millions of Americans during the recession, my wife Kat and I took action, and gave people an alternative to the big financial institutions that have treated customers, communities, and the planet so badly, excluding many Americans out from our shared prosperity. We started a non-profit community bank with a simple theory: give people a fair deal and an opportunity at real economic power. At Beneficial, we put the interests of consumers and borrowers first, and promote a regulatory framework that aligns with our philosophy that banks must do no harm and operate in a fair, transparent, and inclusive way. We invested in the community, in businesses owned by women and people of color, and affordable housing. As president, I will apply this approach to government programs as well. Actions speak louder than words and my administration will take action.

In addition, access to healthy food is a subject that's really close to my heart. We have food deserts in this country where people can't find healthy food to buy in their neighborhoods — and that's got to be addressed. In California, my wife and I started a program called California Food for California Kids: we're in schools across the state that provide 300 million meals a year — with fresh produce from farms, directly to the lunch tables.

3. As President, how would you staff and structure the development, leadership, and daily management of your economic opportunity, poverty, hunger, and homelessness initiatives in your White House, Cabinet, and Administration?

I would seek candidates whose life experiences demonstrate a commitment to justice and equity. I would look for people who understand an individual's dignity and privacy — economic opportunity and a relief from poverty, hunger, and homelessness — and who would be willing to protect our basic rights, even when they are opposed by concentrated power. We need to restructure our economy and banking system to create better access to opportunity, especially for black and brown communities. Every American should have the right to an equal vote, the right to clean air and clean water, the right to learn, the right to a living wage, and the right to health care. I would nominate and appoint those who share my vision and values.