

Amy Klobuchar'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?

Senator Klobuchar believes we must beat back decades of systemic racism and inequality and she is committed to taking aggressive action to increase economic opportunity and ensure all families have a fair shot in today's economy. First, she will invest in quality child care and make sure that families making less than 150 percent of their state's median income do not pay more than seven percent of their income on childcare. Senator Klobuchar was also the first Presidential candidate to commit to cutting child poverty in half in ten years and ending it within a generation by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Care Tax Credit, SNAP benefits and overhauling our country's housing policy.

Second, she believes we must fix the country's education system by increasing investments in public education, raising teacher pay, and investing in school infrastructure, with a focus on investment in areas that need it most.

Third, she will stand up for our workers by protecting the right to join a union and to collectively bargain and raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 to ensure that we have a minimum wage that reflects our values.

Fourth, as part of her Housing First plan, she will completely eliminate the Section 8 backlog and make sure that every American who qualifies for Section 8 rental assistance receives the support they need. She will also invest in expanding the affordable housing supply, combat discrimination in housing, and make a major investment in homeless assistance grants.

Fifth, she believes we must ensure a secure retirement for all Americans and address racial and ethnic disparities when it comes to retirement savings. Senator Klobuchar has proposed creating portable personal savings accounts called UP-Savings Accounts that can be used for retirement and emergencies by establishing a minimum employer contribution to a savings plan, helping a worker build more than \$600,000 in wealth over the course of a career.

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?

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Klobuchar has worked on and passed three farm bills, which included critical support for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. She has also pushed for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, the HELP Schools Act to strengthen nutrition in school lunches, and she helped lead the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act to support healthy meals for children.

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?

As President, Senator Klobuchar will make tackling economic justice, homelessness, poverty and hunger a top priority and she will nominate, appoint and hire leaders in her administration who share her commitment to these issues. She will fully staff and fund programs aimed at increasing economic opportunity for Americans and address economic disparities and propose landmark legislation that drives our changing economy forward and provides opportunity to all Americans by investing in quality child care and providing paid family leave, reducing the costs of health care, overhauling our country's housing policy, raising the minimum wage, and helping Americans save for retirement.

Senator Klobuchar has also released a plan of more than 100 actions she will take during her first 100 days as President to promote shared prosperity, including priorities like strengthening minimum wage enforcement, expanding loans for and investments in local communities in need, strengthening the Economic Development Administration which works directly with communities and regions to promote competitiveness and innovation, strengthening the Minority Business Development Agency, and restoring oversight to eliminate discriminatory lending practices.

In addition, Senator Klobuchar believes that unequal patterns of federal investment, often the result of systemic racism and discrimination, have led to decades of neglect in some communities. She is committed to adopting Congressman Jim Clyburn's 10-20-30 plan, in which 10 percent of federal resources are committed to communities where at least 20 percent of the population has been living below the poverty line for 30 years or more. She supported the original 10-20-30 formula in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and as President, she will work to ensure that at least 10 percent of every agency's funding for discretionary programs goes to areas dealing with persistent poverty under the 10-20-30 formula.