



US Senator Amy Klobuchar - Higher Heights Questionnaire

Issue & Policy Questions:

Healthcare

- 1. Please outline the specifics of your policy proposal on healthcare, including expanding access, what would be covered, lowering prescription drug costs and transition from the current system.**

Senator Klobuchar supports bringing down the cost of healthcare for everyone by putting a non-profit public option in place that allows people to buy into affordable health insurance coverage through Medicare or Medicaid. She believes that the Affordable Care Act is a beginning, not an end and she has fought the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and opposes the Administration's efforts to kick people with pre-existing conditions off of their health insurance.

As President, Senator Klobuchar will build on the Affordable Care Act and help bring down costs for consumers by expanding premium subsidies, creating additional incentives for states to adopt the Medicaid expansion, and providing cost-sharing reductions to lower out-of-pocket health care costs like copays and deductibles. And she will stand up to risky schemes to privatize Medicaid and protect and strengthen Medicare beginning by ending the ban on Medicare negotiating drug prices on behalf of 43 million seniors in Medicare Part D.

Senator Klobuchar also believes that when people are sick, their focus should be on getting better, rather than on how they can afford their prescriptions. That's why Senator Klobuchar has been a champion when it comes to tackling the high costs of prescription drugs. She leads several proposals in the Senate to lift the ban on Medicare negotiations for prescription drugs, allow personal importation of safe drugs from countries like Canada, and stop pharmaceutical companies from blocking less-expensive generics, and as President she will get them done.

- 2. How does your plan address the myriad of disparities – including chronic illness, underdiagnosing of illness, heart disease, mental health, access and affordability that negatively impact the health and well-being of Black women?**

As President, Senator Klobuchar will address persistent racial disparities in health care and health outcomes. She will invest in research into health disparities and how these disparities can be reduced, including when it comes to chronic illness, heart disease, mental health, and maternal care. Senator Klobuchar will also immediately implement a new law that tackles the shortage of maternity care health professionals — including nurses, midwives, and obstetricians — in underserved areas, and she will develop best models of care and promote training to address racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality.

Senator Klobuchar has also committed to preventing, treating and facilitating a cure for Alzheimer's disease, with the goal of putting us on a path toward developing a cure and

treatment by 2025. To support researchers, she will make sure that funding is reliable and consistent. Since African Americans and the Latino community will represent nearly 40 percent of the 8.4 million American families affected by Alzheimer's disease by 2030, Senator Klobuchar will increase federal research into disparities in the incidents and outcomes of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Senator Klobuchar is also deeply committed to improving access and affordability of health care to help address racial health disparities. That means reducing costs of health care and prescription drugs, expanding access, outreach and enrollment, increasing and expanding premium subsidies, providing immediate relief for co-pays and deductibles, and providing significant additional incentives to push states to adopt the Medicaid expansion.

Senator Klobuchar also believes that mental health is as important as physical health, and as one of her first major policy proposals as candidate for President she released a plan to prioritize mental health and address racial disparities in mental health care. That means launching new prevention and early intervention initiatives, expanding access to treatment and building a health care system that integrates mental and physical health care by enforcing federal laws like the Affordable Care Act and the Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity Act that she helped pass to ensure health insurance companies cover all mental illnesses and substance use disorders in the same way they do physical illnesses.

Research also suggests that there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in the quality of long-term care as well as disparities in coverage for long-term care. Senator Klobuchar is committed to tackling disparities in care through expanding access to long-term care with a focus on reducing inequities as well as addressing the costs of long-term care services for people in the greatest need of assistance.

What are your policy plans for the future of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid?

Social Security has served as a stable and secure retirement guarantee for generations of Americans. Senator Klobuchar believes that this program must remain solvent for generations to come and she will fight against risky schemes to privatize it. As President, Senator Klobuchar will work to lift the Social Security payroll cap. Currently the payroll tax only applies to wages up to \$133,000. Senator Klobuchar supports subjecting income above \$250,000 to the payroll tax and extending the solvency of Social Security. And Senator Klobuchar will make sure people are treated fairly by the current Social Security system. As President, she will work to strengthen and improve Social Security benefits for widows and people who took significant time out of the paid workforce to care for their children, aging parents, or sick family members.

Senator Klobuchar opposes cuts and risky schemes to privatize Medicare and will take action to strengthen Medicare and find solutions so it remains solvent. She will improve Medicare for current beneficiaries by reforming payment policies through measures like site neutral payments and providing incentives for getting the best quality health care at the best price, including

bundled payments and telehealth. And she will support new, expanded Medicare coverage for dental, hearing and vision care that makes these services affordable for all seniors.

Senator Klobuchar will also stand up to efforts to cap Medicaid spending and conduct a reassessment of the granting of Medicaid waivers for states that wish to privatize the program and impose discriminatory work requirements. As President, she will also provide significant additional incentives to push states to adopt the Medicaid expansion.

3. How will your administration protect *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's legal right to reproductive rights and justice?

When it comes to women's health, it's clear that there is a concerted effort to attack, undermine and eliminate a woman's right to make her own health care decisions. Senator Klobuchar believes the recent bans in states are dangerous, they are unconstitutional, and they are out of step with the majority of Americans. As President, she will reverse the Trump Administration's decision to ban health providers like Planned Parenthood from receiving funding under Title X. She will end the global and domestic gag rules, and she will fight for legislation that codifies *Roe v. Wade* and protects women's reproductive rights.

4. How does your healthcare plan address access and affordability issues to the full range of reproductive services including contraception, comprehensive sex education, STI prevention and care, disparities in prenatal, pregnancy and postnatal care, which disproportionately impacts Black women, women of color, women who may not be able to afford these services and/or may not have the ability to travel long distances to access these services?

Senator Klobuchar believes that we must do more to help people gain affordable health care coverage, including when it comes to reproductive care and expanding access to contraception. She is an original co-sponsor of the EACH Woman Act to restore full coverage of reproductive health services to women enrolled in Medicaid and other federal health programs. She believes we have to do more to make contraception available and affordable, and she will reverse the Trump Administration's decision to ban health providers like Planned Parenthood from receiving funding under Title X. Senator Klobuchar stands with the 77 percent of Americans who say they don't want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned as well as the 96 percent of Americans who support women's access to contraception.

Senator Klobuchar is committed to addressing racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. As part of her first 100 day plan as President, Senator Klobuchar will immediately implement a new law that tackles the shortage of maternity care health professionals — including nurses, midwives, and obstetricians — in underserved areas, and she will develop best models of care and promote training to address racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. She will also invest in research into disparities when it comes to access to contraception, STI prevention and care, as well as health disparities in prenatal, pregnancy and postnatal care. As President, she

will focus on research into how these disparities can be reduced and she will promote training and care to eliminate these disparities.

In addition, Senator Klobuchar will work to reduce the costs of healthcare and prescription drugs and expand access to health care with a focus on reducing racial disparities, including by putting a non-profit public option in place that allows people to buy into affordable health insurance coverage through Medicare or Medicaid. She will also provide significant additional incentives to push states to adopt the Medicaid expansion.

Do you support the repeal of the Hyde Amendment? Why or why not?

Senator Klobuchar is an original co-sponsor of the bill to repeal the Hyde Amendment and she will continue to push for it as President. She will continue her work in the Senate to protect the health and lives of women across the country.

Economy

1. How will your administration address the racial wealth gap, the pay gap for women and promote economic security for middle, and low-income Americans?

Senator Klobuchar believes we must beat back decades of systemic racism, discrimination and inequality. She believes this begins by focusing on economic justice and opportunity, which means investing in underserved areas, providing early-childcare, fixing our education system, addressing racism in health care such as disparities in maternal and infant mortality rates, overhauling our country's housing policies by totally eliminating the Section 8 backlog and ending housing discrimination, and tackling racial disparities in wages and in retirement savings.

Today, Black and Latino households have only about a tenth of the median net worth of white households. Senator Klobuchar's proposal to establish portable, employer-funded UP-Savings Accounts for retirement savings will help address this disparity. She is also co-chair of the Diversifying Technology Caucus and the Entrepreneurship Caucus with Senator Tim Scott. As President she will work to get more women and people of color in STEM jobs and she will fully empower agencies to aggressively fight modern-day redlining that prevents businesses owned by people of color from getting loans and take on predatory lending that results in higher interest rates in low-income communities of color.

During her first 100 days as President, Senator Klobuchar will work to close the pay gap for women and women of color. Senator Klobuchar is also a co-sponsor of Senator Patty Murray's Paycheck Fairness to ensure that employers pay employees equally for equal work — including by prohibiting employers from asking about the salary history of prospective employees — and she will get this important legislation passed as President.

She has also released a plan of more than 100 actions she will take during her first 100 days as President that include immediately reversing the harmful administrative actions taken by the

Trump Administration. That means priorities like implementing rules to prevent pay discrimination that the Trump Administration has tried to block, restoring and strengthening the Obama Administration's overtime rules to expand overtime pay to millions of workers, protecting student borrowers who believe they were defrauded by their colleges and holding for-profit colleges accountable if they put profits above students, restoring staffing levels at the Office of Civil Rights and the Office of Federal Student Aid, combatting segregation in housing, putting back in place rules protecting workers' rights, and ending attempts to reduce federal housing subsidies, which would be particularly harmful for seniors, families with children and people with disabilities.

Additionally, Senator Klobuchar has committed to cutting child poverty in half within a decade and ending it within a generation. To lift millions of children in our country out of poverty, she released a plan based on a National Academies of Sciences report to expand the earned income tax credit, the child care tax credit, and nutrition benefits and to increase affordable housing opportunities.

2. How do your plans for economic growth address investment in underserved communities?

Senator Klobuchar believes that too many people aren't sharing in our country's economic prosperity and that all people should have a fair shot in today's economy. That's why as President Senator Klobuchar will invest in quality child care, overhaul our country's housing policy and increase the supply of affordable housing, provide paid family leave, and help Americans save for retirement.

She also believes that unequal patterns of federal investment -- which are often the result of systemic racism and discrimination -- have led to decades of neglect in some communities. Senator Klobuchar 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. This commitment combined with her fully paid for plan to invest over \$1 trillion in infrastructure will help communities make critical improvements like removing lead pipes and ensuring access to clean drinking water, providing access to broadband, and increasing public transportation options.

In addition, as part of her Housing First plan, Senator Klobuchar will invest in affordable housing infrastructure, expand funding to build, rehabilitate, and operate homes for low-income families, including by funding the Housing Trust Fund at a minimum of \$40 billion per year. She will also advocate for a new federal tax credit, similar to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, to encourage investment in family-owned homes in neglected neighborhoods.

She is also committed to expanding loans for and investments in local communities in need. For the past 40 years, the Community Reinvestment Act has encouraged financial institutions to make loans and investment in local communities, especially low-income and minority communities. Senator Klobuchar will protect the CRA and instruct financial regulators to conduct greater outreach to assess the true credit needs of their communities.

3. Do you support a \$15 minimum wage? Why or why not?

Senator Klobuchar is a strong supporter of raising the federal minimum wage to \$15. She believes that it's time for us to have a minimum wage that reflects our values.

4. How will your administration address the disparities in access to capital for Black women owned small businesses?

Senator Klobuchar is committed to addressing disparities in access to capital, which is an issue she has taken on as co-chair of the Entrepreneurship Caucus. As President, she will strengthen the Minority Business Development Agency, which provides technical and managerial expertise to help minority businesses overcome social and economic disadvantages. In addition, she will take action to restore oversight to eliminate discriminatory lending practices. She will direct financial regulators to restore Community Reinvestment Act protections, develop policies to encourage financial institutions to make loans and investment in local communities, especially communities in need, and conduct greater outreach to assess the true credit needs of certain areas.

5. How do your plans address climate change and “green jobs” impact communities of color?

Senator Klobuchar will introduce sweeping legislation to combat the climate crisis that includes a massive investment in infrastructure that supports good paying union jobs, climate research and innovation, rural energy development, and better greener transportation.

She believes vulnerable communities are currently experiencing a disproportionate share of the effects of climate change and is committed to leaving no one behind through investments in climate adaptation and support for frontline communities. As President, she will make sure vulnerable communities are a key part of all decision making, create tax incentives and increase federal funding to invest in infrastructure and jobs in communities that are most directly experiencing the effects of climate change, strengthen environmental justice programs at the EPA, invest in affordable housing that promotes climate resilience and mitigation, strengthen LIHEAP and SNAP to protect the most vulnerable Americans, and end the Stafford Act prohibition that prevents disaster funding from being used for significant infrastructure improvements.

Senator Klobuchar is committed to supporting and creating new opportunities for workers and communities that have depended on the fossil fuel industry. She will work with the public and

private sectors to attract new employers and maintain public services, while investing in infrastructure and educational opportunities in areas that experience job loss. As part of any carbon pricing system, she will create a significant manufacturing tax incentive to encourage investment in rural communities or communities that have faced or are about to face job losses. Senator Klobuchar will also ensure that any carbon pricing program does not have a regressive impact on Americans.

To make it easier for workers to find new jobs, Senator Klobuchar will create a new tax credit for companies that hire workers who had previously depended on the fossil fuel industry for employment. Workers will also be able to take advantage of Senator Klobuchar's post-secondary education plans to provide tuition-free one- and two-year community college degrees and technical certifications and expand student loan forgiveness programs to workers in in-demand occupations. She will also create a new tax credit for employers that invest in training for workers at risk of being laid off through on-site training programs or provide paid time off for off-site retraining.

6. Do you support reparations? If so, please describe your specific policy proposals to address the systematic and institutional legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and other forms of racism and discrimination. If not, please explain.

Senator Klobuchar is a co-sponsor of Senator Booker's and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee's legislation to establish a commission to produce a report and recommend to Congress compensation to African Americans for slavery and subsequent discrimination.

Criminal Justice Reform/Gun Violence/Judiciary

1. Please outline the specifics of your plan to address criminal justice reform and include relevant information on returning citizens, over-policing and sentencing reforms.

Senator Klobuchar believes it is time for the Second Step Act. The First Step Act — which made key federal sentencing and prison reforms — only applied to those held in federal prisons and didn't help the nearly 90 percent of incarcerated populations in state and local facilities. Senator Klobuchar will create federal incentives so that states can restore some discretion from mandatory sentencing for nonviolent offenders. She will also reform the cash bail system, expand funding for public defenders, eliminate obstacles to re-entering and participating fully in society, and fight for expanded drug courts. And during the first month of her presidency, Senator Klobuchar will create a clemency advisory board as well as a position in the White House — outside of the Department of Justice — that advises the President from a criminal justice reform perspective.

2. How will your administration work with the Department of Justice to handle police misconduct and death in custody issues in state and local police departments?

Senator Klobuchar supports recommending de-escalation techniques to reduce the use of force and will work to ensure that the Department of Justice accurately and properly reports, documents and investigates use of force incidents. In Senator Klobuchar's Administration the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division will have the utmost credibility. And Senator Klobuchar has long supported policy changes, including videotaped interrogations, reforms to the eyewitness process, body camera trials, diversity in hiring, law enforcement resources and training, training grants and technical assistance, and meaningful and consistent outreach to our citizens.

3. Please outline your specific policy proposals on gun safety. Do you view gun violence as a public health issue?

Gun violence in America has cut short far too many lives, torn families apart, and plagued communities across the country. Senator Klobuchar believes we must address the mass shootings as well as the everyday gun violence in this country continues to take the lives of the equivalent of a classroom of school children every week. She supports a package of gun violence policies including instituting universal background checks by closing the gun show loophole and the Charleston loophole and banning bump stocks, high capacity ammunition feeding devices and assault weapons. She is also the author of a proposal that would close what is commonly referred to as the "boyfriend loophole" by preventing domestic abusers from getting an AK-47. In addition, during her first 100 days as President, Senator Klobuchar will direct the CDC to study gun violence as a public health issue and help identify approaches to reduce gun violence and save lives.

4. Do you support the death penalty?

Senator Klobuchar has opposed the death penalty from back in her time as the Hennepin County Attorney. The evidence shows that the death penalty does not reduce crime, it is costly and it is discriminatory.

5. How will you strengthen the Voting Rights Act, protect voting rights and ballot access?

The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, and Senator Klobuchar believes we must make sure people's voices are heard. As President, she will champion a voting rights and democracy reform package, including automatically registering every 18-year-old in this country to vote by passing a bill she leads in the Senate, banning states from purging voters from rolls for not voting in recent elections by passing a bill she leads with Senator Brown, putting same-day registration policies in place by passing a bill she leads in the Senate, restoring Americans' right to vote after being released from incarceration, ending partisan gerrymandering by passing a bill she leads in the Senate to require independent, bipartisan redistricting commissions, and passing legislation she supports in the Senate to restore the Voting Rights Act.

Senator Klobuchar has already pledged that the For the People Act — legislation that has thirteen of Senator Klobuchar’s legislative provisions — will be the first bill she sends to Congress as President. And it’s time to pass a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and get dark money out of our politics, as well as establish a campaign finance system that increases the power of small donors through a matching system for small donations.

Will your administration recognize violence perpetrated by white supremacist hate groups as acts of domestic terrorism?

Senator Klobuchar will prioritize combating domestic terrorism and empower law enforcement to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of hate-motivated violence, including against minorities, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community. She will also push to make lynching a federal hate crime.

6. What type of judges will you seek to appoint to the Federal bench and the Supreme Court?

Senator Klobuchar will waste no time nominating a full slate of well-qualified judges who will respect precedent and follow the law.

Education

1. Please outline your platform on K-12 education, and Post-Secondary education opportunities other than two-or four-year college like apprenticeships, trade school etc.?

Senator Klobuchar’s mom taught second grade until she was 70 years and she was also a proud teachers’ union member who walked the picket line in the 1951 teachers’ strike. As the daughter of a teacher and union member, Senator Klobuchar understands that a good education is a basic right of every child and that all Americans should have the educational opportunities they need to succeed in today’s economy. Senator Klobuchar has announced plans to fully fund education and our schools, make a historic investment in increasing teacher pay, close the opportunity gap, fully fund the IDEA, boost STEM education and apprenticeship opportunities, and rebuild our crumbling school infrastructure.

As President, Senator Klobuchar will champion tuition-free one- and two-year community college degrees and technical certifications and make it easier for Americans who need help to afford four year degrees. She will work to reduce the burden of student loans, support our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and expand Pell Grants and expand eligibility for students pursuing post-secondary opportunities later in life and the incarcerated. Her post-secondary education plan includes strengthening financial support for non-tuition expenses, expanding support for student parents, simplifying and streamlining the financial aid process, and expanding and fully supporting TRIO and GEAR UP. As President, Senator

Klobuchar will encourage states to work with employers, unions, trade associations, and community colleges to develop stackable credentials for in-demand fields that provide meaningful employment skills while building towards a degree, and she will improve GED programs by linking them to career skills and community college curricula while increasing students' chances of success through wraparound support services. Senator Klobuchar has also committed to expanding apprenticeship opportunities and benefits with the goal of doubling the number of apprenticeships to over a million by the end of her first term.

2. Do you support charter schools?

Senator Klobuchar believes that public schools are the mainstay of our education system and that when it comes to charter schools, we must have stronger accountability and transparency standards in place. Senator Klobuchar also supports the right of educators to unionize whether they teach in a regular public school, a private school, or a charter school.

3. How will your education plans address the school to prison pipeline, the over-discipline of Black girls and protect programs like STEM?

Senator Klobuchar believes we need to make sure all our children can get a great education. That means increasing teacher pay and funding for our public schools and boosting STEM education, with a focus on investment in areas that need it the most. As President, Senator Klobuchar will also re-issue guidance directing schools to reduce racial disparities in how they discipline students, which prompted more than 50 of America's largest school districts to institute discipline reform.

Senator Klobuchar has championed efforts to promote women and minorities in STEM, including as the co-chair of the Senate Diversifying Tech Caucus and the Women's High Tech Coalition. She has successfully passed legislation to expand STEM opportunities in school and to encourage, recruit and support women in STEM fields including by directing NASA to encourage women to study in STEM fields. As Presidents he will continue to lead on this issue and invest in connecting women and minorities to opportunities in STEM.

4. Do you support increasing teacher pay?

As President, Senator Klobuchar will make a historic investment in increasing teacher pay, including working to reduce disparities that lead to lower pay and higher turnover in schools serving low-income students and students of color. Additionally, Senator Klobuchar announced a federal-state school "Progress Partnerships" that will allow states to take aggressive action to support our students, including increasing teacher pay. To participate in the "Progress Partnership," states will among other steps agree to a state-federal partnership with a generous federal match to increase salaries for all teachers, as well as develop recommendations that address unique state needs when it comes to the teacher pipeline, such as recruitment, retention, diversity of the workforce, and quality of teacher preparation.

Senator Klobuchar also supports greater investment in career development to increase teacher retention, especially for teachers of color. She wrote a provision that was included in the Every Student Succeeds Act to help improve professional development and teacher and principal retention in schools serving Native American students, and as President she will expand on that model.

5. How will your administration address funding disparities among school districts?

Senator Klobuchar has announced a bold commitment to fully fund education and our schools. For too long the federal government has not met its commitments when it comes to funding Title I and IDEA, putting a disproportionate burden on low-income school districts. As President, Senator Klobuchar will fully fund the federal share of Title I and IDEA. Additionally, Senator Klobuchar announced a federal-state school “Progress Partnerships” that will allow states to take aggressive action to support our students, including providing additional resources to schools. To participate in the “Progress Partnership,” states will among other steps agree to convene a commission to review the state’s existing funding formula to improve equity. States will review the existing funding formula to ensure that all students, particularly those with the greatest need, have access to adequate educational resources. The commission must develop recommendations for improving state education funding equity, which will be published biennially along with an assessment of state progress. Another element of the “Progress Partnership” will require states to create a mechanism for distributing federal school infrastructure funding that addresses disparities in conditions and resources and ensures equity in funding for construction and repairs of school buildings across the state.

6. How will you address the student loan crisis in America?

As President, Senator Klobuchar will work so that students can refinance their loan debt at lower interest rates, she will fix and strengthen the public service loan forgiveness program, and she will expand loan forgiveness for in-demand occupations. She also believes we must make college more affordable and supports a major expansion of Pell Grants and higher-education tax credits so we can help students and their families with the cost of higher education. And she believes that all students who attended for-profit schools that defrauded students should be eligible for loan forgiveness.

7. How do your plans for higher education address HBCU's?

Senator Klobuchar is committed to strengthening, expanding the affordability of, and significantly increasing our federal investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and as a Senator she was a strong supporter of the FUTURE Act. As President, Senator Klobuchar will invest in HBCUs through a new Pathways to Student Success initiative. Participating HBCUs will receive federal funding to waive or significantly reduce the first two years of tuition for low-income students at four-year schools. This proposal is based on Senator Baldwin’s America’s College Promise Act, which Senator Klobuchar co-sponsors in the Senate.