

THE LATINO Presidential QUESTIONNAIRE

LATINO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
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Amy Klobuchar

1. By 2030, California will need [1.65 million](#) more college degrees to stay economically competitive. When fifty-four percent of the state's K-12 public school students are Latino, and in the higher education space, Latinos make up more than one million students, what are your plans to ensure that more Latinos in California attain a college degree?

Senator Klobuchar believes we must make sure all children -- including all children in the Latino community -- can get a great education that prepares them for the future. As President she will make a historic investment in increasing teacher pay, closing the opportunity gap, fully funding the IDEA, boosting STEM education and apprenticeship opportunities, and rebuilding our crumbling school infrastructure.

Senator Klobuchar also believes we must make college more affordable and she will make sure more Latinos in California are able to get college degrees. She supports tuition-free one- and two-year community college degrees and a major expansion of Pell Grants for public and private colleges to help students and their families with the cost of higher education. She will also work so that students can refinance their loan debt at lower interest rates, fix and strengthen the public service loan forgiveness program, and expand loan forgiveness for in-demand occupations. In addition, Senator Klobuchar will invest in Minority Serving Institutions -- including our Hispanic Serving Institutions -- through a new Pathways to Student

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Success initiative. Participating HBCUs and MSIs will receive federal funding to waive or significantly reduce the first two years of tuition for low-income students at four-year schools.

2. There remains [2.9 million](#) uninsured people in California and nearly three out of five of these uninsured are Latino. The uninsured is expected to rise to [4.4 million](#) in the next five years, with Latinos and undocumented residents driving that growth. As president, what policies will you pursue to ensure that Latinos can obtain high-quality, affordable health care?

Senator Klobuchar believes that we must bring down costs to make health care affordable for all Americans. She will improve the Affordable Care Act and help bring down costs for Latinos by putting a non-profit public option in place, expanding premium subsidies and providing costsharing reductions to lower out-of-pocket health care costs like copays and deductibles. She will also tackle the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, including by lifting the ban on Medicare negotiations for prescription drugs, allowing personal importation of safe drugs from countries like Canada and stopping pharmaceutical companies from blocking less-expensive generics. Senator Klobuchar is also committed to addressing racial and ethnic disparities in care by expanding access, outreach, and enrollment as well as investing in research and training to reduce health disparities.

3. [Sixty-one](#) percent of Latinos in California face high-rental costs and only 42 percent of Latinos own homes (compared to 64 percent of whites). How will you address the rising costs of rental housing and expand homeownership opportunities for Latinos?

Senator Klobuchar believes everyone deserves access to a safe and affordable home. As President, she will make an over \$1 trillion investment in housing and poverty reduction. As part of her plan, she will completely eliminate the Section 8 backlog and make sure that every American who qualifies for Section 8 rental assistance receives a voucher or unit, promote effective zoning rules to make it easier to build affordable housing in many areas and work to increase the supply of affordable housing, including in high opportunity neighborhoods.

To increase access to homeownership including in the Latino community, she will work to pass legislation that expands access to capital for down payments and makes it easier to build a credit history by allowing credit bureaus to use on-time payment data from cell phone bills, utilities, and rent in calculating credit scores. She will also strengthen federal homebuyer education programs including targeted programs for communities with low levels of homeownership. Senator Klobuchar will also fight housing discrimination and expand access to counsel for people who are dealing with evictions, being denied access to health care and having wages unfairly taken with the goal of eliminating the unmet need.

4. California is home to approximately [2.9 million](#) undocumented immigrants. What steps will you take to protect immigrants in California and what is your timeline for action?

Senator Klobuchar believes that comprehensive immigration reform is crucial to moving our economy and our country forward. She will jump-start negotiations for comprehensive immigration reform, which will include a pathway to citizenship and the DREAM Act, with the stated goal of passing it in the first year of her presidency. During her first 100 days as President, Senator Klobuchar will also undo attempts by the Trump Administration to deport DREAMers and immigrants under Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforcement Departure. And she will put an immediate end to the cruel and inhumane policy where the government is taking kids away from their parents and ensure children are reunited with their parents without delay.

5. Latinos are overrepresented in blue-collar occupations like agriculture and construction. Latinos also have the highest poverty rate in the state and possess a median household income that is more than [\\$20k](#) less than non-Latinos. What would your administration do to close the income inequality gap among Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups?

Senator Klobuchar believes that too many people aren't sharing in our country's economic prosperity and that we must beat back decades of discrimination and inequality. She will work to close the income inequality gap among Latinos and other racial and ethnic groups by ensuring all families have a fair shot in today's economy, investing in quality child care, overhauling our country's housing policy, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, providing paid family leave, helping people save for retirement, standing up for our unions and taking on child poverty in this country. Today, one in four Latino children live in poverty. As President, Senator Klobuchar will cut child poverty in half in a decade and end it in a generation with policies based on a report from the National Academies of Sciences.

Senator Klobuchar 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 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.

6. The recent Kincaid Fire in California demonstrated that climate change is a real threat to Latino and immigrant communities across the state. In the first 100 days, what actions are you prepared to take to address the urgent issue of climate change?

As the recent Kincaid Fire demonstrated, the climate crisis isn't happening in 100 years — it's happening now. Senator Klobuchar is deeply committed to tackling the climate crisis and

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believes that it is an urgent priority for our communities, for our economy and for our planet. She is a co-sponsor of a Green New Deal and has signed the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge. On day one of her presidency she will get us back into the International Climate Change Agreement. On day two and day three, she will bring back and strengthen clean power rules and gas mileage standards that the Obama Administration put into place. And she will put forward sweeping legislation that provides a landmark investment in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, provides incentives for tougher building codes, promotes rural renewable energy and development, supports a landmark carbon pricing system that does not have a regressive impact on Americans, promotes “buy clean” policies, and puts our country on a path to achieving 100% net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

7. Latinas in California make 43 cents on the dollar for every man in the state. As Latinas make up half the Latino population in the state, this hurts our ability to grow our economy. How will you use the presidential pulpit to close the gender pay gap for Latinas in California?

Senator Klobuchar is 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. As President, she will pass this bill and push for equal opportunity for Latinas by investing in quality child care, providing paid family leave, increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, helping Americans save for retirement and getting more women and people of color in STEM jobs.

8. The recent mass shootings in Gilroy, CA and El Paso, TX have left the Latino community fearful. What are your plans to curb gun violence in our country that have left too many Latino families grieving?

Gun violence has cut short far too many lives, torn families apart, and plagued communities across the country. As President, Senator Klobuchar will never fold to the NRA and gun safety will be a major priority. She’ll introduce legislation including putting universal background checks in place, closing the Charleston loophole, and banning bump stocks, assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. There are also important steps the President can take without waiting for Congress, including closing the “boyfriend loophole” that prevents domestic abusers from getting an AK-47, investing in research into gun violence, and restoring rules to prevent those with severe mental illnesses from acquiring guns.

The shootings in El Paso, Texas and Gilroy, California were also disturbing reminders of the rise in hate in this country. As President, 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. And she will end the hateful rhetoric that has become all too routine during the Trump Administration.

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