



In a healthy democracy, respect is shown for the religious freedom and beliefs of every person. However, in our country today, religion is often used to divide and—more disturbingly—as a means to take away the rights of other people. In our pluralistic democracy, it is critical that those running for public office model how best to integrate their faith with their responsibility to all people, if elected.

The **Faith & Democracy Caucus Project** of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund explores the important issues around religious freedom and how the faith and beliefs of candidates would inform their policy decisions. The answers below were provided and approved by the candidate listed and the content was not edited in any manner. We encourage voters to consider the responses of all the candidates and follow up with each candidate to foster positive conversation on these critical issues.

.....**SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR**.....



1. Should candidates share their personal religious beliefs when running for public office?

Senator Klobuchar believes that it is up to the candidates to decide how to talk about their own religious beliefs. She has a strong faith and has been part of the weekly Senate prayer breakfast since she arrived in Washington DC. She’s described the Senate prayer breakfast as a place where people can gather every week, leaving everything – disagreements, titles, bluster – checked at the door.

2. How will your faith or values influence your views on public policy?

Senator Klobuchar believes that faith plays an important role when it comes to working with her colleagues to move our country forward and that faith can establish a spirit of cooperation, respect, and support. She talks about her family’s faith and how it helped her dad overcome his battle with alcoholism. Faith, treatment, friends, family, and the community of people who stood by her dad made all the difference, and in his words, he was “pursued by grace.” When it comes to mental health and addiction, Senator Klobuchar believes everyone should have that same right to be pursued by grace and receive effective treatment.

3. What are the proper boundaries between religion and government?

Senator Klobuchar believes in the separation of church and state and she believes deeply in the freedom of worship. She believes that while people worship in different ways and some people



don't worship at all, our government should be about allowing for and protecting that freedom.

4. How will you protect the rights of people, especially the rights of those in the minority?

Senator Klobuchar is committed to protecting minority rights and combating hate and discrimination against minorities, including people of color, the LGBTQ community and religious minorities. She has released a plan of more than 100 actions she will take during her first 100 days as President that includes immediately reversing the harmful administrative actions taken by the Trump Administration that put minority rights in jeopardy. For example, Senator Klobuchar will stop efforts to give federal protections to those discriminating against LGBTQ people, ensure funding to prevent and respond to violent hate crimes and address racial discrimination, and undo the Trump Administration's discriminatory policies when it comes to education, health care and civil rights.

5. How will you balance the principles of your faith or beliefs with your obligation to defend the Constitution, particularly if the two come into conflict?

As President, Senator Klobuchar will take and honor the solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution.

6. How would you seek to balance the conflicting religious and civil rights of citizens?

Senator Klobuchar believes that religious freedom is never an either/or question. She will strive to promote the equal rights and dignity of all people, while ensuring that we are protecting religious liberty.

7. How would you reduce the influence of politics from our federal courts and make them less partisan?

In her first 100 days, Senator Klobuchar will waste no time in working with the Senate and the American Bar Association to nominate a full slate of well-qualified judges who will follow and respect the law.

8. Should public funds be used for private educational choices at the K-12 level? If so, name the specific ways.

Senator Klobuchar believes public schools are the mainstay of our education system and she will end discussions of Secretary Betsy DeVos's \$50 billion proposal to fund private school vouchers.

9. How would you protect a woman's right to reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptive choices?

In the first 100 days of her Presidency, Senator Klobuchar will reverse the Trump Administration's decision to prevent health providers like Planned Parenthood from receiving funding under Title X. She will end the global and domestic gag rules, promote access to contraception, fight for legislation that codifies Roe v. Wade, and protect women's reproductive rights.

10. What priority actions would you take in addressing the immigration crisis at the southern border?

Senator Klobuchar is committed to stopping the cruel and inhumane policy where the government is taking kids away from their parents and she has called for additional actions to address the situation at the border, including allowing people to apply for asylum in their home countries. In her first hundred days, Senator Klobuchar will also jump-start negotiations for comprehensive immigration reform — which includes a pathway to citizenship, the DREAM Act and border security — with the stated goal of passing it in the first year of her presidency.

11. How would you promote civility and civil dialogue in the public debate of issues that are dividing our nation?

As President, Senator Klobuchar will end the hateful rhetoric that has become all too routine during the Trump Administration. She will bring decency and dignity back to the White House, and work to find common ground with people she doesn't always agree with in order to get things done.

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa & Action Fund is grateful for the opportunity to provide the candidate responses to our Faith & Democracy questionnaire. This effort is solely meant as a tool to educate voters on the candidates' positions on these important issues. In no way is the publication of any candidate response to be seen as an endorsement of their candidacy for public office.

