

DEBATE WATCH 2006
Minnesota Senate Debate
November 5, 2006
St. Paul, MN

Amy Klobuchar: Rhetoric vs. Reality

"Mark Dayton Democrat Amy Klobuchar's poll-tested sound bites and attempts to remake herself as a moderate are not credible. The fact is Klobuchar and Dayton are far-left liberal Democrats out of step with Minnesotans. It's once again clear Klobuchar will say anything if she thinks it will help her politically."

- Mark Drake, Republican Party of Minnesota

I. Iraq

Klobuchar Rhetoric

"We need to change course."

"Start bringing home some our troops."

"The solution is not more boots on the ground, the solution is a political and diplomatic solution."

Klobuchar Reality

Klobuchar Said It Was Wrong To Call On Government To Set A Date For Withdrawal.

"Klobuchar said she wants American troops to return home from Iraq. But she believes that calling on the government to set a date for withdrawal – as Wetterling has done – was the wrong step to take right now. 'I don't think you can say that (invading Iraq) has made us safer,' she said. 'But I don't believe we can pull out tomorrow. We have to have a plan to bring the troops home safely and it must be done responsibly.'" (Lawrence Schumacher, "Klobuchar Talks DFL Values," *St. Cloud Times*, October 12, 2005)

Klobuchar "Refused To Back Calls For A Withdrawal Timetable." "Klobuchar, who said she opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning, also refused to back calls for a withdrawal timetable.

'Now we are there,' Klobuchar said. 'When we leave this war, we have to do it in a responsible way.'" (Rachel Stassen-Berger, "U.S. Senate Race Off To A Testy Start," *Pioneer Press*, September 2, 2006)

Yet, When Questioned By *Pulse Of The Twin Cities* On Iraq, Klobuchar Said She Would Support Bringing "A Significant Number Of...Troops Home This Year."

"I disagreed with the decision to invade Iraq. I admire Congressman Murtha for his bravery and courage to criticize the Bush-Cheney administration for this war. We should bring a significant number of our troops home this year and transition to Iraqi governance." ("U.S. Senate Candidates Bell, Klobuchar Respond To Questions," *Pulse of the Twin Cities*, February 1, 2006)

Klobuchar Said We Should Develop A Policy To Withdraw. “As a campaign rally/media event at West Duluth’s Willard Munger Inn, Klobuchar, a Democrat, said the U.S. should fully support its troops and veterans but develop a policy to withdraw from Iraq soon.” (John Myers, “Klobuchar: Iraq War Will Shape Campaigns,” *Duluth News Tribune*, August 8, 2006)

II. Taxes

Klobuchar Rhetoric

“We’ve gone through and shown how you can roll back tax cuts in top 1% this a way to balance the budget...if you thing they’ve gotten drenched, the...in the cost of gas, college tuition and the bad fiscal decisions this Congressman and administration have made.”

Klobuchar Reality

MSNBC: “Unlike Some Democratic Candidates This Year She Forthrightly Says She Will Seek To Raise Taxes On People Who Make Over \$200,000 – “Rolling Back The Bush Tax Cuts” Is How She Phrases It.” (Tom Curry, “Iraq War Fires Up Minnesota’s Senate Race,” *MSNBC.com*, May 31, 2006)

Associated Press: “Klobuchar Would Bring Back The Higher Taxation Of Those Earning \$200,000 A Year Or More.” “But, while Kennedy said the path back to fiscal health is through lower spending and continued lower taxes, the Democrats favored revisiting the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts Bell would repeal them entirely, while Klobuchar would bring back the higher taxation of those earning \$200,000 a year or more.” (Patrick Condon, “Senate Candidates Use Debate To Define Themselves,” *The Associated Press*, March 3, 2006)

- **But Over 1.9 Million Minnesota Taxpayers Benefited From 2001 & 2003 Tax Legislation.** According to a report by the Department of the Treasury on The Economic Growth And Tax Relief Reconciliation Act Of 2001 & The Jobs And Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act Of 2003, 1.969 million taxpayers in Minnesota will have lower income tax bills in 2004. (Department Of The Treasury, Office Of Public Affairs, Press Release, “State-By-State Breakdown Of The Combined Effects Of The Economic Growth And Tax Relief Reconciliation Act Of 2001 & The Jobs And Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act Of 2003,” April 1, 2004)
- **Close To Half A Million Small Businesses In Minnesota Received Tax Relief From President Bush’s Tax Cuts.** Based on the number of returns filed in 2004, the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts provided **490,000 small businesses** with tax relief. This figure includes tax returns “that report at least one dollar of income or loss from a sole proprietorship, farm proprietorship, partnership, S corporation, and/or rental income.” (United States Department Of The Treasury Website, www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/ty2003.pdf, Accessed March 28, 2005)
- **Small Businesses Pay Taxes Through The Owner’s Personal Tax Returns.** “One is that the very tax cuts intended for individuals also had a profound effect on businesses. That is because unincorporated companies -- sole proprietorships, partnerships and specially structured limited liability corporations -- don’t pay tax at the corporate level.”

Instead, these entities pass through all their business earnings to their owners, who report the income on their personal tax returns. In recent years, there has been an explosion in these so-called pass-through businesses, which far outnumber conventional tax-paying corporations. And instead of paying a top individual tax rate of 39.6 percent, as they did when Bush took office, these business owners have paid 35 percent since 2003.” (Jill Barshay, “The Labor Vs. Capital Debate,” *Congressional Quarterly Weekly*, February 3, 2006)

III. Record As Hennepin County Attorney

Klobuchar Rhetoric

“I’ve done my job without fear or favor.”

“I’ve done my job based on merit. ... that’s what I’ll do in Washington.”

“I will put the interests of the people of this state first. That’s what I’ve done for the people I represent now.”

Klobuchar Reality

“Political Insiders, Foes And Acquaintances Say Klobuchar Is Extremely Bright But When They Go Off The Record, Several Say She Is Also ‘Self-Absorbed,’ Too Obviously Ambitious And Unwilling To Give Enough Credit To Others.” “Political insiders, foes and acquaintances say Klobuchar is extremely bright, hard-working and determined. But when they go off the record, several say she is also ‘self-absorbed,’ too obviously ambitious and unwilling to give enough credit to others. Some say she also seems to be trying to prove herself to someone.” (Jon Tevlin, “Chasing Amy,” *Star Tribune*, August 31, 2003)

- ✓ **“Her [Klobuchar’s] Favorite Topic Is Amy Klobuchar,’ Said One DFLer.”** (Jon Tevlin, “Chasing Amy,” *Star Tribune*, August 31, 2003)

Klobuchar Failed To Receive The Support Of Her Own Employees’ Union, Who Accused Her Of Grandstanding And Creating A “Hostile Work Environment”

The Local Union Of The American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees (AFSCME) “Representing Klobuchar’s Staff Had Asked That She Be Denied AFSCME’s Endorsement” Of Her 2006 U.S. Senate Campaign. (Janet Moore, “State AFSCME Endorses Klobuchar In Senate Race,” *Star Tribune*, February 20, 2006)

- ✓ **President Of AFSCME Local 2938 Jim Appleby “Said In A Letter To Union Leaders . . . That Klobuchar has Denigrated Office Lawyers Publicly And Privately, Damaged Morale And ‘Created A Hostile Work Environment.’”** “The local union representing Klobuchar’s staff had asked that she be denied AFSCME’s endorsement. Jim Appleby, an

assistant Hennepin County attorney who serves as president of AFSCME Local 2938, said in a letter to union leaders this month that Klobuchar has denigrated office lawyers publicly and privately, taken credit for their work, damaged morale and 'created a hostile work environment.' The local represents about half of the 400 employees in Hennepin County attorney's office, including investigators and 112 non-management lawyers." (Janet Moore, "State AFSCME Endorses Klobuchar In Senate Race," *Star Tribune*, February 20, 2006)

Klobuchar "Has Used The Publicity From The Many Successfully Prosecuted Criminal Cases To Give The Public The False Impression That She Was Actively Involved In Those Cases. She Was Not." (Patricia Lopez, "Klobuchar's Work With Staff Is Focus Of A Union Battle," *Star Tribune*, February 19, 2006)

"It Is Rare For A DFL Candidate To Draw The Ire Of Labor Unions." (Patricia Lopez, "Klobuchar's Work With Staff Is Focus Of A Union Battle," *Star Tribune*, February 19, 2006)

- ✓ **But According To "A Veteran Prosecutor," These Current Grievances Are "About Concerns Investigators Have Had Over The Last Seven Years."** "Mike Furnstahl, a veteran prosecutor with the violent-crimes unit, said the purpose of the letter was 'not to derail her [Klobuchar's] campaign. . . . This is about concerns investigators have had over the last seven years.'" (Patricia Lopez, "Klobuchar's Work With Staff Is Focus Of A Union Battle," *Star Tribune*, February 19, 2006)

The Local Union Had Previously Asked That Klobuchar Be Denied AFSCME Endorsement. "Appleby said his local also asked that Klobuchar be denied endorsement in 2002, when she was running for re-election. That request was ignored, he said. Klobuchar ran unopposed." (Patricia Lopez, "Klobuchar's Work With Staff Is Focus Of A Union Battle," *Star Tribune*, February 19, 2006)

IV. Medicare Part D

Klobuchar Rhetoric

"We should be get cheaper prices."

"I believe we need to negotiate with prescription drug companies."

Klobuchar Reality

Klobuchar Spent Months Ridiculing Medicare Part D, Only To Encourage Minnesota Seniors To Sign Up As The Deadline Approached:

Klobuchar Criticizes Medicare Part D:

- **Klobuchar: Medicare Part D “Received The Grade It Deserved.”** “More than two dozen states, including Minnesota, have declared public health emergencies and spent millions of state dollars trying to fix this problem. As my mom, a retired teacher, noted, Medicare Part D received the grade it deserved.” (Amy Klobuchar, “Klobuchar Addresses President Bush’s State of the Union,” January 30, 2006)
- **Klobuchar: “Medicare Part D Is A Basic Policy Failure.”** “This is more than a glitch. Medicare Part D is a basic policy failure. First off, the plan is far too complicated. We want our seniors spending their golden years with their grandchildren, not attending five hour meetings and surfing the internet looking for the right drug plan.” (Amy Klobuchar, “Klobuchar Addresses President Bush’s State of the Union,” January 30, 2006)
- **Klobuchar: Medicare Part D Program A “Nightmare.”** “Klobuchar said she hopes the President will make four promises Tuesday night... Fix the Medicare Part D nightmare. The new Medicare prescription drug program has gotten off to a disastrous start. Seniors have faced unbelievable headaches trying to get the drugs they depend on.” (Amy Klobuchar For US Senate Press Release, January 30, 2006)

Klobuchar Now Encourages Minnesotans To Sign Up For Medicare Part D:

- **Klobuchar Reminds Seniors To Enroll In Medicare Part D.** “U.S. Senate candidate Amy Klobuchar today reminded Minnesota seniors of next Monday’s enrollment deadline for the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. Klobuchar also urged Congress to extend the May 15th deadline and not penalize the over 230,000 Minnesota seniors still trying to navigate the complex program.” (Amy Klobuchar For US Senate Press Release, May 9, 2006)

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