

LEGISLATOR

US Senator

AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2018

LEADERSHIP POSITION

Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee

2nd Term


Re-elected in 2012


SENIORITY RANK


42

Out of 100

CONTACT

 **Email** [Contact Form](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/contact-amy)
<http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/contact-amy>

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 **DC Office** 302 Hart Senate Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Brian Nutting, Bloomberg News

Understated and unassuming, Amy Klobuchar has worked on consumer protection, economic development and agricultural issues and casts a dependable vote for Democratic Party leaders.

Displaying wit and a willingness to work across the aisle, she's regarded as a likeable colleague by members of both parties.

She has attracted notice beyond her Minnesota constituency; she's been mentioned as a possible U.S. Supreme Court nominee, by the New York Times as among those women with the best chance of becoming the first female president, and by the Washington Post as a "rising star" of the Democratic Party.

For the 114th Congress, she was chosen by her colleagues to lead the Democratic Caucus' Steering and Outreach Committee, where one of her tasks is to compile a list of bipartisan bills on which Democrats can work with Republicans.

Klobuchar's political views are in tune with traditional Democratic stances on both social and economic matters, as evidenced by her 90 percent-plus ratings from the Americans for Democratic Action and her scores of less than 10 percent from both the American Conservative Union and Club for Growth.

In her first term, Klobuchar's issues included legislation on pool safety sparked by the eventually fatal injuries sustained by a Minnesota girl whose intestines were partially sucked into a pool drain. That bill was signed into law. Klobuchar also was a major player in legislation to ban lead in children's products pool safety.

Responding to criticism from some that her legislative efforts weren't bold enough, Klobuchar said in a 2014 interview with OZY.com, a new online news site: "I've looked at all the hyper-partisanship and I truly believe that being bold is looking for common ground." Courage, she said, sometimes means standing "next to someone you don't always agree with for the betterment of our country."

In 2012 she teamed with then-House member Michele Bachmann, a Minnesota Republican, to win enactment over National Park Service objections of legislation to authorize a bridge over the St. Croix River -- portions of which are designated as wild and scenic.

Klobuchar points out that two-thirds of the bills she has sponsored have had a Republican co-sponsor -- among them, measures on military sexual assault, fraud against senior citizens, and immigration legislation that would revamp visa requirements for tech workers and invest in science, technology, education and mathematics education.

She has sat with Republican Jeff Sessions at the president's annual State of the Union speech several times in recent years.

"The women of the Senate -- given that there are only 20 of us and 80 men -- have worked hard to build friendships across party lines," she told *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 2014. "We have potluck dinners and know one another's families. It's no surprise to me that all 20 women voted for the compromise to get out of the shutdown last year. We have built the trust you need for compromise to happen."

She also told the *Cosmopolitan* interviewer: "Women politicians tend to lead by being accountable for results. We focus on goals and outcomes. You can't get by on just swagger."

In the 113th Congress, she was the top senator on the Joint Economic Committee, which, although it has no legislative jurisdiction, allowed her to weigh in on issues such as employment and the state of the U.S. manufacturing sector.

"America can no longer afford to be a country that simply churns money and shuffles paper on Wall Street -- a country that consumes, imports, and spends its way to huge trade deficits," she says. "We need to be a country that thinks, that invents, that makes stuff, and that exports to the world."

Klobuchar was a conferee on the 2013-2014 House-Senate negotiations over the final details of the multi-year farm bill. She was pleased with provisions to strengthen crop insurance, protect dairy farmers, and continue disaster programs for livestock producers.

Because of her low-key demeanor, her prowess as a stand-up comedian came as a surprise to many. She won raves for her presentations at Gridiron dinners in both 2009 and 2013. At the latter dinner, President Barack Obama informed Al Franken, a former comic and *Saturday Night Live* television writer, that he was just the second-funniest senator in Minnesota.

Early Years

Klobuchar grew up in the Twin Cities suburbs. Her father was a columnist for the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* and her mother an elementary school teacher. Klobuchar graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1982. During her college years, she had an internship in the office of Vice President Walter Mondale, a fellow Minnesotan. She loves to recount that, far from immediately being assigned to write position papers, her first task was to crawl around the office checking identification numbers for an office furniture inventory. Her senior thesis at Yale examined the decade of politics behind the construction of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, according to her website.

She also recalls the many long-distance bicycle rides she took with her father, early evidence of her dogged nature and her affection for a man who struggled to overcome alcoholism.

After earning a law degree at the University of Chicago, she returned to Minnesota and joined a law firm where Mondale was senior counsel. She later moved to another law firm and eventually was in private practice for more than a decade.

Political Path

In 1995, as an attorney in private practice, she got involved in an effort to require a state law to guarantee women a 48-hour hospital stay after giving birth. Her interest was sparked by her own experiences as a new mother, when she was discharged after 24 hours because her insurance wouldn't cover more. She testified at the state Capitol to urge the 48-hour rule, which was approved.

"That was a defining moment for me," she said, and her involvement in public affairs led her to run for Hennepin County Attorney in 1998. She was re-elected in 2002.

After eight years as county attorney, Klobuchar ran for the Senate seat that was vacated by first-term Democrat Mark Dayton, who later won election as governor. In the 2006 race for the open Senate seat, Klobuchar beat Republican Mark Kennedy with 58 percent of the vote.

It was the largest margin for a Minnesota Senate race since 1978 as Klobuchar became the first woman to be elected to the Senate from Minnesota. In winning re-election in 2012, Klobuchar did even better -- prevailing by 35 percentage points.

Updated Nov. 25, 2014

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Amv Klobuchar is the first woman elected to represent the State of Minnesota in the United States Senate. Throughout her

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public service, Amy has always embraced the values she learned growing up in Minnesota. Her grandfather worked 1500 feet underground in the iron ore mines of Northern Minnesota. Her father, Jim, was a newspaperman, and her mother, Rose, was an elementary school teacher who continued teaching until she was 70. Amy has built a reputation of putting partisanship aside to help strengthen the economy and support families, workers and businesses.

Amy has always understood that her first duty is to represent the people of Minnesota. She acted quickly to obtain full funding to rebuild the I-35W bridge just thirteen months after it tragically collapsed into the Mississippi River. She worked across party lines to expand education and job opportunities for returning service members, fought to ensure that Minnesota National Guard members received the full benefits they earned, and helped turn Minnesota's ground-breaking "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program into a national model. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Amy was part of the important Farm Bill conference committee that reached an agreement between the Senate and the House on a long-term Farm Bill in 2014.

Since arriving in the Senate, Amy has worked with Democrats and Republicans on legislation focused on moving the country forward. She fought to pass the most significant consumer product safety legislation in a generation, keeping foreign toxic products off our shores and out of our stores, and pushed the cell phone companies to enact more consumer-friendly policies. In 2015 she was appointed Chair of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, where she brings together senators, businesses, community leaders, policy experts and intergovernmental organizations to help develop policies to strengthen the economy and move the country forward.

Amy has pushed for a bipartisan, balanced approach to reducing our nation's debt and was part of a group of fourteen senators who fought to create the bipartisan debt commission. She helped pass the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate, has pushed to reform the Senate rules, and worked to beat the filibuster and led the fight to confirm the first director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in seven years.

As Ranking Senate Member of the Joint Economic Committee and a member of the President's Export Council and the Senate Commerce Committee, Amy has been a leader in working to implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs in their communities. She has authored legislation to help small businesses tap into new markets abroad, passed a significant amendment aimed at boosting funds for STEM education for American students, and led successful national initiatives to boost American tourism, including a series of regulatory reforms adopted by the Administration.

Amy also serves as the Ranking Member on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer rights, where she has worked to advance policies that protect consumers from anti-competitive behavior and make sure businesses are able to compete on a level playing field. She has introduced legislation to crack down on 'pay-for-delay' agreements, the practice of brand-name drug manufacturers using pay-off agreements to keep more affordable generic equivalents off the market.

Before serving in the Senate, Amy headed the largest prosecutor's office in Minnesota for eight years, making the prosecution of violent and career criminals her top priority. She led the effort for successful passage of Minnesota's first felony DWI law, and received the leadership award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Her safe schools initiative, community prosecution efforts, and criminal justice reforms earned national awards from both the Bush and Clinton Justice Departments. As a private citizen and before being elected to public office, Amy was the leading advocate for successful passage of one of the first laws in the country guaranteeing 48-hour hospital stays for new moms and their babies.

Her work has gained national recognition. The American Prospect named her a 'woman to watch,' and Working Mother Magazine named her as "Best in Congress" for her efforts on behalf of working families. She received an award from the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) for her work to fight sexual assault in the military, and the Disabled American Veterans honored her work to improve the lives of America's veterans. She has also received the 'Outstanding Member of the Senate Award' from the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition and the 'Above and Beyond Award' from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for her commitment to developing a supportive work environment for employees serving in the Guard and Reserves.

Amy was the valedictorian of her Wayzata High School class. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School. Her senior essay in college, published as the book "Uncovering the Dome," chronicles the 10-year-history behind the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome and is still used at colleges and universities across the country.

Amy is married to John Bessler, a native of Mankato, who attended Loyola High School and the University of Minnesota. Amy and John have a daughter, Abigail, who is currently in college.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES[Senate Committee on the Judiciary](#)[Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation](#)[Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry](#)[Senate Committee on Rules and Administration](#)[Joint Economic Committee](#)**CAUCUSES**[Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus](#)[Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus](#)[Congressional Coalition on Adoption](#)

Birthdate 05/25/1960

Birthplace Plymouth, MN

Political Party Democratic Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse John Bessler

Family 1 child

Pronunciation KLO-bu-shar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**Education**

Yale University

Graduated 1982

University of Chicago

JD 1985

Partner, Dorsey & Whitney LLP Partner, Gray Plant Mooty Mooty Bennett 1999 - 2006 Attorney, County of Hennepin MN 2006 - Present Senator:Minnesota, (US)Senate