

**UMass Lowell  
Survey of Minnesota Democratic Primary Likely Voters**

**February 12-19, 2020**

**N=450 Minnesota Democratic Primary Likely Voters**

**The sample has an adjusted margin of error +/-6.4% for LVs**

*See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.*

Survey design and analysis by Joshua J. Dyck, Director and John Cluverius, Associate Director, Center for Public Opinion, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Do you have a question about this poll? If so, tweet @UML\_CPO and we'll get back to you.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

*Klobuchar ahead of Sanders by 6 in her home state; only 3 candidates above 15% delegate threshold*

In a new poll of likely Democratic primary voters in Minnesota, Senator Amy Klobuchar has an apparent lead in her home state over his closest rival, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Klobuchar receives the support of 27% of Democratic likely voters while Sanders receives the support of 21% of voters. In third place is Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren at 16%.

Former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg comes in 4<sup>th</sup> at 10%, followed by former New York Mayor and Billionaire Michael Bloomberg at 9%, former Vice President Joe Biden at 9%, and Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard at 4%, while 4% of Minnesota Democratic likely voters remain undecided. Businessman and Activist Tom Steyer received the support of 1 single voter in Minnesota, which rounds down to 0%.

Minnesotans get their chance to participate in this year's primary on Super Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The poll, part of a series of Super Tuesday poll releases, was written and conducted by the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion, a nationally recognized non-partisan polling center.

As this is a home state for Senator Klobuchar, the expectation going in was that she would likely lead this poll; the ultimate question was by how much and how many candidates are likely to



get delegates. As of now, she leads, but Sanders, who has moved into the national frontrunner status, continues to show strength and it's likely he will pick up delegates in every state. If the results of this poll were to hold, only Klobuchar, Sanders and Warren would meet the 15% threshold necessary to qualify for delegates.

The biggest dynamic in the race can be seen by age. Klobuchar leads among those 45 and older with 30% of the vote but is taking only 17% of the 18-44 year old vote. Predictably, the youth vote continues to propel Sanders. He is supported by 32% of voters under the age of 45 compared to only 17% of voters 45 and over. Warren also does considerably better among younger voters, getting 25% of those under 45, but only 13% of those 45 and over.

### *How the Race Might Change/Vote Stability*

With Super Tuesday less than two weeks away, our survey asked voters how certain their vote choice is or if there's a chance they might still change their mind and vote for another candidate. Nearly 4 in 10 voters (38%) say they could still change their minds compared to 62% who say they will definitely support the candidate they currently support.

Sanders supporters, as has been found in other states, are the most committed voters; 85% of those supporting Sanders say they will definitely vote for the Vermont Senator. This is 18 points higher than the vote certainty for Klobuchar (67% definitely vote for). This suggests that even though Klobuchar is a home state candidate and leads, a third of her voters would consider an alternative candidate as dynamics in this race shift. That means that a lot is still riding on the momentum out of the Nevada caucus and South Carolina primary for Klobuchar, and Sanders or other candidates may still have an opportunity to close the gap in the final campaign push.

### *Momentum*

The poll asked Minnesota Democratic primary likely voters who is likely to win the nomination. Here, we see that Sanders has emerged as the frontrunner among Democratic primary voters; 34% expect Sanders to win the Democratic nomination compared to 12% Bloomberg. Another 31% say that they are unsure, reflecting the very real uncertainty in the Democratic nominating contest overall.

We also see that part of the reason for indecision. Most of the candidates are well liked and have positive net favorability ratings. Klobuchar is a net +60 (75% favorable, 15% unfavorable), Sanders is a net +35 (62% favorable, 27% unfavorable), Warren is a net +52 favorable (71% favorable, 19% unfavorable), Biden is a net +26 favorable (56% favorable, 30% unfavorable). Bloomberg's favorability is still quite low by comparison with a net +9 favorability rating (43% favorable, 34% unfavorable) and perhaps more importantly, 23% say they have no opinion/have never heard of the former 3-term New York Mayor. To offer some perspective to



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these numbers, former President Barack Obama has a +83 net favorability (90% favorable, 7% unfavorable) and President Trump has -89 net favorability rating (4% favorable, 93% unfavorable).