



[Ninth Democratic Presidential Debate Takes Place in Las Vegas](#)

Democrats vying for the presidential nomination took to the debate stage in Las Vegas on Wednesday evening, in the lead up to the Nevada caucuses this Saturday, February 22nd. The candidates on stage were Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Bernie Sanders, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Vice President Joe Biden, and Senator Amy Klobuchar. Mayor Bloomberg made his first debate appearance after sitting out the primaries in Iowa and New Hampshire to strengthen his campaign. Businessman Tom Steyer didn't meet the standards to participate in the latest debate, as he failed to meet the polling requirements of 10% support in four separate national polls, or at least 12% in two polls in Nevada and/or South Carolina.

The debate began by the candidates taking aim at Mayor Bloomberg, who is perceived as trying to buy the election. Senator Warren attacked Bloomberg on non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) his company made employees sign, and his refusal to release employees from those NDAs, including women who had accused him of sexual harassment. Bloomberg also came under fire from Vice President Joe Biden for the controversial "stop-and-frisk" policy employed by New York City police while he was mayor. Biden called the policy "abhorrent," and Mayor Bloomberg didn't defend the practice, saying he was "embarrassed" and that he had apologized for its racist undertones.

After relatively poor performances in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries, Senator Warren went on the offensive on the Las Vegas debate stage. She accused Senator Sanders of having a narrow vision for America's future that excluded and alienated too many voters. She also took aim at Vice President Biden and Senator Klobuchar for being too eager to be liked, particularly by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Senator Warren wasn't the only candidate to go on the offensive; Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg took shots at each other and Vice President Biden as the three of them compete to win over moderates. Mayor Buttigieg currently holds the most overall delegates, but Senator Klobuchar had a strong showing in New Hampshire and Vice President Biden holds a solid advantage among minority communities in the polls, hinting at strong performances in states such as Nevada and South Carolina. Mayor Buttigieg swiped Klobuchar for forgetting the name of Mexico's president, and she retaliated by highlighting his lack of experience at the national level of politics. Vice President Biden reiterated his long-standing position of being the most likely to defeat President Trump in the general election, and portrayed himself as being the most electable candidate on the stage due to the legacy he shares with President Obama.

Senator Sanders came out of the debate relatively unscathed, despite an attack from Mayor Bloomberg that hinted at him being a hypocrite. Bloomberg criticized Sanders for owning three houses despite being the most well-known democratic socialist in America. Senator Sanders was also the lone candidate who said the person who held the most delegates going into the democratic convention should win the nomination, regardless of whether or not they had a majority.

The next debate will take place on February 25th in Charleston, South Carolina, prior to the South Carolina primaries on February 29th. After South Carolina, March 3rd is Super Tuesday, where 15 states will hold their primaries. By that time, the Democratic field will have narrowed, and candidates will have a better idea of how realistic their chances are at winning the nomination.