

ABBY M. MCCLOSKEY



www.mccloskeypolicy.com

Summary

Abby M. McCloskey is a sought-after policy advisor, newspaper columnist, and podcast host. She has directed domestic policy on two presidential campaigns in 2016 and 2020. She leads the Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families, a cross-partisan effort fashioned after the 1989 National Commission on Children. She has worked with numerous foundations and think tanks, testified before Congress, and is widely published.

Current Positions

Columnist, Dallas Morning News, 2016 - present

Podcast Host, Beyond Talking Points, Dallas Morning News, 2024-present

Season 1: The 2024 Presidential Election: What America really needs

Season 2: Trump's First 100 Days: What we are getting and what we were promised

Founder and Principal, McCloskey Policy, LLC, 2015 – present

Director, Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families, 2023-present

Politico Women Impact Leader, 2021-present

Policy Expertise

Particular interest in supports for working families, such as child care, paid leave, work and wages, tax policy, and education. Additional interest issues such as abortion, maternal health, and child well-being. Also, the future of conservatism, Christianity and Republican politics in America, and facilitating cross-partisan ideation and consensus.

Education

M.S., Applied Economics, Johns Hopkins University

B.A., Economics, Wheaton College, *Summa Cum Laude*

Selection of Past Positions

Policy Director, Howard Schultz Exploratory Presidential Campaign, 2018-2019

AEI-Brookings Joint Working Group, Paid Leave, 2016 – 2019

Economic Advisor, Governor Jeb Bush's '16 Presidential Campaign, 2015-2016

Policy Director, Governor Rick Perry's '16 Presidential Campaign, 2014-2015

Program Director of Economic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy, 2013-2014

Lecturer, Washington Campus' MBA and EMBA Programs, 2013-2014

Director of Research, The Financial Services Roundtable, 2010-2013

Staffer, Office of Senator Richard Shelby, 2009-2010

Policy Associate, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation & Mercatus Center, 2008-2009

Longer Works

"A Center-Right Perspective on the Care Economy for Children," Brookings Institution, *(publication forthcoming)*

"The Future of Conservatism," Bush Institute, Summer 2025

"In This Together: A Cross-Partisan Action Plan to Support Low To Moderate Income Families With Young Children," Editor, Convergence Center for Policy Resolution, February 2024

"What Republicans' 'Family Feud' Gets Wrong About Parenting in America," Politico Magazine, September 5, 2023

"The GOP Failed Millennial Moms Like Me. But It Needs Us Now More Than Ever," Politico Magazine, July 15, 2022

"The Future of Family Policy," National Affairs, Winter 2022

"Family at the Center: Parental Leave and the Social Contract," American Renewal, The American Enterprise Institute, 2022

"Family Affordability: Building Social Capital At Home," Social Capital Campaign and National Hispanic Pastors Alliance, September 2022

"Conservative values support investing in child care as infrastructure. Here's why." Politico, June 17, 2021

“Designing a Paid Leave Policy to Support our Most Vulnerable Workers,” Abby McCloskey, Angela Rachidi, Peyton Roth, American Enterprise Institute Report, October 7, 2020

“The American Dream in 2020: How To Strengthen It,” The American Enterprise Institute Report, April 23, 2020

“An Economy Where All Can Flourish,” The Bush Center, Catalyst Fall 2019

“Beyond Growth,” National Affairs, Winter 2019

“Clearing the Way for Working Women,” National Affairs, Winter 2015

“Fostering Upward Economic Mobility in the United States,” *AEI Perspectives*, with Aparna Mathur, March 2014.

“How to Improve Economic Opportunity for Women,” *AEI Economics Study*, with Aparna Mathur. June 2014.

“Holding Financial Regulators Accountable: A Case for Economic Analysis,” with Hester Pierce, *AEI-Mercatus Study*, May 2013.

Selection of Congressional Testimony and Presentations

“2025 Policy Agenda for Family Flourishing,” Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy, February 19, 2025

“The Care Economy: Connections, Challenges, and Opportunities,” Brookings Institution, June 17, 2024

“Finding Common Ground for Working Families,” Brookings Institution, April 3, 2024

“Opening Remarks: Launch Event for Convergence Collaborative Report,” U.S. Senate, February 8, 2024

“Family Economic Mobility: Finding Bipartisan Pathways to Support Pro-Family Policies,” Spotlight on Poverty, Doris Duke Foundation, U.S. Senate, December 5, 2023

“Pro-Family Priorities for the 118th Congress,” Ethics and Public Policy Center, Institute for Family Studies, U.S. Senate, February 16, 2022

“The role of child care in an equitable post-pandemic economy,” Senate Banking Committee Subcommittee on Economic Policy, June 23, 2021

“Medical Care Leave: A Way Forward,” AEI-Brookings Conference and Report Release, September 7, 2018

“Evaluating the Employer and Employee Impacts of Paid Leave Reform,” The City Council of Washington D.C., October 10, 2017

“AEI-Brookings Project on Paid Family Leave: Report Release and Discussion,” AEI-Brookings Conference, June 6, 2017

“Financial Regulation and the Well-Being of Low-Income Americans,” Testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, February 11, 2014.

“How to Improve Economic Opportunity for At-Risk Women.” National Association of Welfare Research Annual Conference, August 2014.

Selection of Columns

“These Aren’t the Family Values I Remember,” The Dispatch, April 17, 2025

“Trump tariffs will feel good, before they bite,” Dallas Morning News, April 7, 2025

“Where's Trump Taking America?” The Dallas Morning News, March 7, 2025

“Education is broken. Don’t defund education,” Dallas Morning News, February 17, 2024

“What they think of Trump (and us) across the pond,” Dallas Morning News, February 8, 2025

“Here’s what separates MLK’s dream from visions of MAGA grandeur,” Dallas Morning News, January 19, 2025

“Why an immigration reform bill should go first,” The Dallas Morning News, January 10, 2025

“This election was a contest of worldviews,” Dallas Morning News, November 7, 2025

“What Makes America Great,” Dallas Morning News, November 3, 2024

“After Nov. 5, we’re all in this together,” Dallas Morning News, October 27, 2024

“Next president will face a dangerous world,” Dallas Morning News, October 13, 2024

“Roe is gone but abortion is still central this election,” Dallas Morning News, October 8, 2024

“Is America a Christian nation? It's complicated,” Dallas Morning News, September 22, 2024

“Don’t listen to candidate make-believe,” Dallas Morning News, September 16, 2024

“Can Harris and Trump get serious about immigration policy?” Dallas Morning News, September 10, 2024

"Accountability for screen time in Dallas schools should go both ways," Dallas Morning News, August 25, 2024

"On Dobbs anniversary, red states have made progress, but more is needed," Dallas Morning News, June 24, 2024

"Yes, surgeon general, label social media," Dallas News, June 23, 2024

"School phone reforms still needed," Dallas Morning News, May 19, 2024

"The motherhood issue no one will talk about," Dallas Morning News, May 12, 2024

"Stop Taxing the Life Out of Marriage," Dallas Morning News, April 15, 2024

"Eden's Apple is In Our Pockets," Dallas Morning News, April 1, 2024

"The Kids Are Not All Right," Dallas Morning News, March 18, 2024

"The IVF Ruling Clearly Confuses Everything," Dallas Morning News, March 3, 2024

"Can't Washington give us an honest deal?" Dallas Morning News, February 19, 2024

"Is Life More Precious After Roe?" Dallas Morning News, January 29, 2024

"Waiting for normal politics? Go ahead, pull up a chair," Dallas News, December 17, 2023

"The Women Shaking Up Economics," Dallas Morning News, December 10, 2023

"Finally, we're protecting our kids," Dallas Morning News, September 25
September 3, 2023

"Too Close for Comfort," September 3, 2023, Dallas Morning News

"Getting Kids Back to School Safely," Dallas Morning News, August 14, 2023

"Here's My Advice for the GOP," Dallas Morning News, July 2023

"The Wrong Place to Draw a Red Line," Abby McCloskey, Politico, June 23, 2023

"Is Pro-Life Whole Life?" Dallas Morning News, June 24, 2023

"The GOP's Moment of Truth on Immigration," The Dallas Morning News, June 3, 2023

"School choice may be part of the solution. Reading definitely is," Dallas Morning News, May 22, 2023

"Why Republicans Need A Child Care Plan Of Their Own," Politico, December 9, 2021

“D.C.’s paid-leave law needs improvement,” Abby McCloskey, Isabel Sawhill, Aparna Mathur, The Washington Post, October 10, 2017

“A Plan for Parental Leave,” National Review Magazine, May 23, 2016

“The Rise of Single Parents,” The Ripon Forum, Spring 2016 Edition

“Obama Rewrites Debt-Limit History” with Kevin Hassett, The Wall Street Journal, October 3, 2013

Select Media Appearances and Coverage

CNBC, The Free Press, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Fox News “Fox & Friends”, Fox Business “Stossel”, Larry Kudlow Show, “ National Review, The Week, Bloomberg, Politico, Texas Tribune, Chicago Tribune

Client Work

In her consulting practice, McCloskey currently directs the Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families and helps to facilitate a group of Southern philanthropic funders in maternal health with Afton Bloom. She consults with American Policy Ventures and the Bipartisan Policy Center on support for working families.

Personal

Married, with three children, living in Texas. U.S. citizen.